

REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, November 27, 1850.

SIR: Before proceeding to submit, for your consideration, a general view of our Indian Affairs and relations during the last twelve months, I would respectfully refer to the accompanying reports of the superintendents, agents, and missionaries, in the Indian country, for more particular information in relation to local operations, and the condition of the various tribes, than can be fitly imbodyed in a report of this description.

Among the less remote tribes with which we have fixed and defined relations, and which, to a greater or less extent, have felt the controlling and meliorating effects of the policy and measures of the government for preserving peace among them and improving their condition, an unusual degree of order and quietude has prevailed. It is gratifying to know that amongst this class, comprising a large portion of the red race within our widely extended borders, there probably has never, during the same period of time, been so few occurrences of a painful nature. All have been peaceful towards our citizens; while, with the exception of the Sioux and Chippewas, they have preserved a state of peace and harmony among themselves. These two tribes are hereditary enemies, and scarcely a year passes without scenes of bloody strife between them. From their remoteness and scattered condition, it is difficult to exercise any effective restraint over them, while their proximity to each other affords them frequent opportunities for indulging their vengeful and vindictive feelings. Each tribe seems to be constantly on the watch for occasions to attack weaker parties of the other, when an indiscriminate massacre of men, women, and children, is the lamentable result. During the last spring mutual aggressions, of an aggravated character, threatened to involve these tribes in a general war; but the acting superintendent, Governor Ramsey, aided and assisted by the commanding officer at Fort Snelling, promptly interposed, and by timely and judicious efforts prevented such a catastrophe.

Such occurrences are not only revolting to humanity, but they foster that insatiable passion for war, which, in combination with love of the chase, is the prominent characteristic feature of our wilder tribes, and presents a formidable obstacle in the way of their civilization and improvement. We know not yet to what extent these important objects may be accomplished; but the present and improving condition of some of our semi-civilized tribes affords ample encouragement for further and more extended effort. Experience, however, has conclusively shown that there is but one course of policy by which the great work of regenerating the Indian race may be effected.

In the application of this policy to our wilder tribes, it is indispensably

necessary that they be placed in positions where they can be controlled, and finally compelled by stern necessity to resort to agricultural labor or starve. Considering, as the untutored Indian does, that labor is a degradation, and that there is nothing worthy of his ambition but prowess in war, success in the chase, and eloquence in council, it is only under such circumstances that his haughty pride can be subdued, and his wild energies trained to the more ennobling pursuits of civilized life. There should be assigned to each tribe, for a permanent home, a country adapted to agriculture, of limited extent and well-defined boundaries; within which all, with occasional exceptions, should be compelled constantly to remain until such time as their general improvement and good conduct may supersede the necessity of such restrictions. In the mean time the government should cause them to be supplied with stock, agricultural implements, and useful materials for clothing; encourage and assist them in the erection of comfortable dwellings, and secure to them the means and facilities of education, intellectual, moral, and religious. The application of their own funds to such purposes would be far better for them than the present system of paying their annuities in money, which does substantial good to but few, while to the great majority it only furnishes the means and incentive to vicious and depraving indulgence, terminating in destitution and misery, and too frequently in premature death.

The time is at hand for the practical application of the foregoing views to the Sioux and Chippewas, as well as to some of the more northern tribes on the borders of Missouri and Iowa. Congress has made an appropriation for negotiations with the Sioux for a portion of their lands, which should, as far as practicable, be conducted on the principles laid down in the instructions given to the commissioners appointed for that purpose last year, and which were communicated with the annual report of my predecessor. Those instructions contemplated the purchase of a large extent of their territory, and their concentration within narrower limits upon lands remote from the white settlements and the Chippewas; objects of primary importance, in view of the general policy already stated.

Since the treaties of 1837 and 1842, with the Chippewas, a considerable portion of those Indians have continued, by sufferance, to reside on the ceded lands east of the Mississippi river, in Wisconsin and Minnesota, where they have for some years been brought into injurious contact with our rapidly advancing and increasing population in that quarter. Having ample facilities for procuring ardent spirits, they have become much injured and corrupted by unrestrained indulgence in the use of that accursed element of evil. To remedy this unfortunate state of things, it was determined, at an early period of the present year, to have these Indians removed northward to the country belonging to their tribe. Measures for this purpose were accordingly adopted; but, in consequence of the very late period at which the appropriation requisite to meet the necessary expenses was made, only a small number have, as yet, been removed. Their entire removal, however, will not sufficiently relieve our citizens from annoyance by them, as they will for some time have the disposition, and be near enough, to return with facility to their old haunts and hunting grounds. Nor will the situation of the Chippewas, generally, then be such as their well-being requires. They own a vast extent of territory on each side of the Mississippi, over which they will be scattered, following the chase and indulging in their vagrant habits, until the wild products of the country, on which they depend for a subsistence, are exhausted,

and they are brought to a state of destitution and want. Efforts should therefore be made, at as early a period as practicable, to concentrate them within proper limits, where, with some additional means beyond those already provided, effective arrangements could be made to introduce among them a system of education, and the practice of agriculture and the simpler mechanic arts. The best portion of their country for this purpose is west of the Mississippi river; but it is not owned by the whole tribe in common—a considerable part of it being the exclusive property of particular bands, who are not parties to any of our treaties; and receive no annuities or other material aid from the United States. This circumstance not only excites dissatisfaction with the government, but produces much jealousy and bad feeling towards the rest of the tribe, which may hereafter lead to serious difficulty, and, as the game on which they mainly depend for the means of living must soon fail them, the government will be under the necessity of interposing to save them from starvation. A wise forecast and the dictates of a benevolent policy alike suggest that timely measures be taken to avert so disastrous a result. This may easily be done, and at a moderate expense compared with the importance of the objects to be accomplished.

In order to enable the department to carry out these views in reference to the whole Chippewa tribe, I respectfully recommend that Congress be asked for an appropriation at the ensuing session to defray the expense of negotiating a joint treaty with the different bands, for the purpose of acquiring so much of their country on the east side of the Mississippi as we may require for a long time to come; to provide that the whole of their remaining lands, together with their present and future means, shall be the common property of the whole tribe, so that all will be placed upon an equal footing; and that as large a proportion of their funds as practicable shall be set apart and applied in such a manner as will secure their comfort, and most rapidly advance them in civilization and prosperity. With such arrangements for this tribe, and the adoption of a like policy towards the Winnebagoes, now located in their vicinity on the west side of the Mississippi, and the Menomoniies, soon to be removed there, the whole face of our Indian relations in that quarter would in a few years present an entire and gratifying change. We should soon witness in this, our northern colony of Indians, those evidences of general improvement now becoming clearly manifest among a number of our colonized tribes in the southwest, and which present to the mind of the philanthropist and the Christian encouraging assurance of the practicability of regenerating the red race of our country, and elevating them to a position, moral and social, similar if not equal to our own. There are two evils in the section of country referred to, operating injuriously upon the welfare and interests of the Indians in that quarter, and our citizens engaged in trade among them, which require prompt attention, and which must be suppressed before our Indian relations there can be placed upon a safe and satisfactory footing. These are, first, the immense annual destruction of the buffalo and other game by the half-breeds from the British side of the line, generally in the employment of the Hudson Bay Company; and, secondly, the introduction of ardent spirits among our Indians by the traders of that company. The embarrassment and injury to our Indians resulting from the devastation of game by these foreign depredators have justly occasioned much dissatisfaction among them, and, if not soon checked, serious difficulties may well be apprehended. The introduction of ardent spirits among the

Indians by the persons referred to is not only an aggravated evil, but is derogatory to the authority and dignity of this government.

Our laws and regulations prohibit the introduction of spirituous liquor among the Indians, as well as the ingress of foreigners into their country for purposes of trade, or indeed for any purpose, without permission from the proper authorities. A strict compliance with these laws and regulations is required of our traders; while the traders of the Hudson Bay Company, in contemptuous disregard of them, frequently come over on our side of the line, and, through the nefarious means of ardent spirits, carry on a corrupting traffic with the Indians, injurious alike to them and to our licensed and bonded traders. Suitable measures should be promptly adopted to put a stop to these abuses; for which purpose the establishment of a military post and an Indian agency in that quarter will be indispensable; and, in the present state of affairs, this cannot be done at too early a period.

It was expected that the Menomones, for whom a location has been provided between the Winnebagoes and Chippewas, would be removed this year; but before the exploration of their new country by a party of these Indians had been completed, the season was too far advanced for the tribe to emigrate before the approach of winter. The President, therefore, in a just spirit of humanity, gave them permission to remain in Wisconsin until the first day of June next.

The Stockbridge and Munsee Indians residing in Wisconsin having, in 1848, ceded all their lands to the government, are expected to settle somewhere in the same region of country. The treaty which provides for their removal stipulates that, in the selection of a country for their future residence, they shall be consulted; and they have expressed a preference for a site in the vicinity of the St. Peter's river. As soon as a suitable location can be found for them, and their removal effected, Wisconsin, like most of the other States, will be relieved substantially of the evils of an Indian population.

As usual with the Winnebagoes, in whatever situation placed, a considerable number of them have been restless and discontented in their new location on the upper Mississippi, to which they were removed in the year 1848. This has arisen less from any well-grounded objection to the country than from their own reckless disposition and vagrant habits, together, possibly, with an omission on the part of the government to do all that might have been done for their comfortable settlement in their new home. There was considerable difficulty in effecting their removal; and a portion of them, eluding the agent of the government charged with the superintendence of their emigration, remained behind. These, with others who returned to their old haunts in Iowa and Wisconsin, gave serious annoyance to our citizens by their threatening conduct and actual depredations. The white population became more or less alarmed, and strong representations were made to the government of the necessity for their immediate removal. The urgency appearing to be great, there was but little time to make the necessary arrangements for the purpose. A resort to military force was considered inexpedient, as it might have tended to exasperate their feelings, and lead to actual hostilities; and it was greatly to be desired that they should be taken to their country under circumstances calculated to allay their discontent, and dispose them to remain.

My predecessor, therefore, with the concurrence and approbation of the

head of the department, entered into a contract with a gentleman recommended for his high character and great influence over these Indians, to remove them in a kind and judicious manner, and to make suitable and satisfactory arrangements for their comfortable and permanent settlement. It appears that the measure has thus far been attended with corresponding results, and that the contractor is entitled to credit for his energy and success in the prosecution of his undertaking.

In examining the reports of my predecessors for several years, I find a measure of policy strongly urged with reference to the tribes located on the borders of our western States, in which I fully concur. It is, by a partial change in their relative positions, to throw open a wide extent of country for the spread of our population westward, so as to save them from being swept away by the mighty and advancing current of civilization, which has already engulfed a large portion of this hapless race. To a large majority of those that have been removed there from the States we are under obligations of the highest character, enjoined alike by contract and conscience, to secure to them their present homes and possessions forever; and, ere it be too late, we should make all the arrangements necessary and proper to a faithful discharge of this solemn duty.

Below the most southern of our colonized tribes, we have an ample outlet to the southwest; but another of higher latitude is required, leading more directly towards our remote western possessions. A beginning will be made in carrying this measure of policy and humanity into effect by the purchase, as contemplated, from the Sioux, of a large portion of their country; and it may be fully consummated by the removal of a few tribes between the Sioux territory and the Kansas river, with whom we have no treaty stipulations guarantying in perpetuity their present possessions. Suitable locations may be found for them south of that river, where, secure in comfortable and permanent homes, they would be stimulated by the salutary influence and example of neighboring and more enlightened tribes.

That the border tribes in question are in danger of ultimate extinction from the causes indicated must be evident to every well informed and reflecting mind; and it is equally clear that the adoption of the policy recommended is the only practicable means of averting the melancholy fate with which they are threatened. If they remain as they are, many years will not elapse before they will be overrun and exterminated; or, uprooted and broken-spirited, be driven forth towards the setting sun to perish amidst savage enemies on the plains, or the sterile and inhospitable regions of the Rocky mountains. Such a catastrophe would be an abiding reproach to our government and people, especially when it is considered that these Indians, if properly established, protected, and cherished, may at no distant day become intelligent, moral, and Christian communities, fully understanding and appreciating the principles and blessings of our free institutions, and entitled to equal participation in the rights, privileges, and immunities of American citizens.

It is among the tribes of our southern colony that we find the most satisfactory and encouraging evidences of material advancement in civilization; and we need no better vindication of the wisdom and humanity of our Indian policy, thus far, than the gratifying results among a number of these tribes. Surrounded, in the States where they formerly resided, by a white population continually pressing upon them, and without the

natural enterprise and energy or the intellectual culture requisite to enable them to contend with a superior race in any of those employments and pursuits upon which the dignity and happiness of man depend—discouraged and depressed by their inferior and helpless condition—they, with a fatal and ruinous facility, adopted only the vices of the white man, and were fast wasting away. In a few years they would have become extinct, and, like other once numerous and powerful tribes, their names would have been preserved only in the records of history. Removed from this unfortunate, and to them unnatural, position—placed where they have the assurance and guarantee of permanent homes—where they are, in a great measure, free from those influences arising out of a close contact with a white population, so injurious and fatal to them in their untutored state, and where the elements of civilization could be steadily and systematically introduced among them,—they are gradually increasing in numbers and rapidly advancing in prosperity.

Several of these tribes have already abandoned their original and crude forms of government, and adopted others, fashioned more or less after the model of our own, having regularly established constitutions, of republican character, and written laws, adapted to their peculiar state of affairs, with proper and responsible officers to carry them into execution. They are adopting agricultural and mechanical pursuits, and, through the efforts of the government and of various Christian societies, having become impressed with the necessity and advantages of education, they are making highly-commendable exertions to disseminate more generally its blessings among them.

In addition to the means furnished by government and liberally provided by missionary associations, they make large appropriations from their own funds towards the establishment and support of manual-labor schools, which have been found efficient auxiliaries in imparting to them a knowledge of letters, agriculture, and mechanic arts, and of advancing them in civilization and Christianity. During the few years that institutions of this description have been in operation, they have done much towards the accomplishment of these great objects; and, had they effected nothing more than to excite the desire for instruction now existing among a number of the tribes, the expenditures they have occasioned would not have been in vain. Introduced, however, as an experiment, we were liable to errors in regard to them, which experience alone could develop; and, after much reflection, I am satisfied that there are defects in the system, as at present organized, which must be remedied in order to insure its full degree of efficiency and usefulness. In my judgment, confirmed by the experience of others, the great error committed has been in establishing most of the institutions upon too large a scale. In consequence of the heavy expenditures required to establish and maintain them, they are necessarily limited in number, and so wide apart as to be at an inconvenient distance from the great majority of those for whose benefit they are intended. Hence the advantages and benefits of the schools are confined almost entirely to the neighborhoods within which they are respectively located; for the Indians at a distance being naturally averse to having their children taken so far from their homes, it often happens that the full complement of scholars cannot be obtained. Besides, the congregation of large numbers of Indian children, by affording them more unrestricted opportunities of indulging in the use of their own language, seriously interferes with their acquisition of the English tongue,

a knowledge of which is generally a pre-requisite to their civilization. By diminishing the size and expense of these institutions, they could be multiplied and extended ; there would be less difficulty in obtaining the desired number of resident pupils ; while others in the vicinity could be taught as day scholars, and the benefits of a practical education be thus more widely diffused.

The only considerable number of Indians who have retained any portion of their original possessions, and survived the perils of immediate contact with a white population fast thickening around them, are those remaining in the State of New York, comprising a mere remnant of the once numerous and powerful Iroquois, or "Six Nations." After rapidly diminishing for many years, they seem at length to have reached the lowest point in their declining fortunes. Having been placed, by the humane legislation of the State, in a situation similar to that of our colonized tribes, they present the interesting spectacle of a once barbarous people in a state of rapid transition to civilization and prosperity. A striking indication of their progress is the important change they have made in their civil polity. Impressed with the disadvantages of their ancient and irresponsible oligarchical form of government, and its tendency to retard their advancement, a majority succeeded, in 1848, in effecting an entire revolution. Having formally assembled in convention, they adopted a republican constitution, and their government and affairs are now well conducted, on principles similar to those on which ours are administered. There are still, however, individuals among them who, from their connexion with the old system, are opposed to the new order of things ; but, as the object of these malcontents is to regain their lost power, rather than to promote the public good, no encouragement has been given to them, either by the State of New York or the general government.

It is much to be regretted that no appropriation was made at the last session of Congress for negotiating treaties with the wild tribes of the great western prairies. These Indians have long held undisputed possession of this extensive region, and, regarding it as their own, they consider themselves entitled to compensation, not only for the right of way through their territory, but for the great and injurious destruction of game, grass, and timber, committed by our troops and emigrants. They have hitherto been kept quiet and peaceable by reiterated promises that the government would act generously towards them, and considerations of economy, justice, and humanity require that these promises should be promptly fulfilled. They would, doubtless, be contented with a very moderate remuneration, which should be made in goods, stock animals, agricultural implements, and other useful articles.

As a further measure for securing the friendship and good conduct of these Indians, it is earnestly recommended that a delegation of their principal and most influential men be brought in, for the purpose of visiting some of our larger cities and more densely populated portions of country. These delegates would thus be impressed with an idea of the great superiority of our strength, which, being imparted to their people, would have a powerful and most salutary influence upon them.

Our information in regard to the Indians in Oregon and California is extremely limited ; but the deficiency, it is hoped, will shortly be supplied by the agents and commissioners provided for at the last session of Congress. Copies of the instructions given to these officers are herewith

submitted; together with a report from General Lane, late governor and acting superintendent of Indian affairs in Oregon, containing the latest official information in possession of the office respecting the Indians in that far-distant region, and received too late to accompany the annual report of last year.

After the three agents authorized by Congress for the Indians in California were appointed, it was found that no appropriation had been made for their salaries, and the necessary expenses of their agencies. Their functions as agents were therefore suspended; but, as there was an appropriation for negotiating treaties with the Indians in that State, they were constituted commissioners for that purpose. They will thus have an opportunity of acquiring information useful to them as agents, and be on the spot to enter upon their duties in that capacity when the requisite appropriations shall have been made.

Commissioners have also been appointed for the highly important purpose of negotiating treaties with the various Indian tribes adjacent to the line between the United States and Mexico. They are expected to accompany the boundary commission, and are charged with the duty of collecting all such statistical and other information concerning those Indians as may aid the department in adopting the proper policy and measures for their government, and to carry out, in good faith, the stipulations of our recent treaty with the Mexican republic.

The ruinous condition of our Indian affairs in New Mexico demands the immediate attention of Congress. In no section of the country are prompt and efficient measures for restraining the Indians more imperiously required than in this Territory, where an extraordinary state of things exists, which, so long as it continues, will be a reproach to the government.

There are over thirty thousand Indians within its limits, the greater portion of which, having never been subjected to any salutary restraint, are extremely wild and intractable. For many years they have been in the constant habit of making extensive forays, not only within the Territory itself, but in the adjoining provinces of Mexico, plundering and murdering the inhabitants, and carrying off large quantities of stock, besides numerous captives, whom they have subjected to slavery, and treated with great barbarity and cruelty. Humanity shudders in view of the horrible fate of such of their female captives as possess qualities to excite their fiendish and brutal passions. Our citizens have suffered severely from their outrages within the last two years, of which their attack last fall upon Mr. White's party, while travelling to Santa Fe, is one of many instances. They murdered the whole party, nine or ten in number, except his wife, child, and servant, whom they carried off. Our only Indian agent in the Territory, who is stationed at Santa Fe, on hearing of the lamentable occurrence, promptly made every effort in his power to rescue the captives and bring the Indians to punishment. The military officers in the Territory also made commendable exertions for the same purpose, but, unfortunately, with no other result than the discovery of the dead body of Mrs. White, which was found by a military party in pursuit of some Indians supposed to have her in their possession. It was evident that she had just been murdered, as the body was still warm. The sad duty of interring the corpse was performed by the military with becoming decency and respect. Proper efforts have been continued to rescue the child and servant, but as yet without success. Renewed in-

structions have recently been given directing a large reward to be offered, which, it is hoped, will lead to a favorable result. But their atrocities and aggressions are committed, not only upon our citizens, but upon the Pueblo Indians, an interesting semi-civilized people, living in towns or villages called *pueblos*, whence they derive their name. Before the country came into our possession, they were in the habit of repairing the injuries they sustained by retaliation and reprisals upon their enemies; but from this they are now required to desist; and thus the duty is more strongly imposed upon us of affording them adequate protection. The interference of the government is required also to secure them against violations of their rights of person and property by unprincipled white men, from whose cupidity and lawlessness they are continually subject to grievous annoyance and oppression.

To prevent serious disputes between these Indians and the white inhabitants, it is essentially necessary that commissioners be appointed to ascertain and define the boundaries of their lands, which they claim to hold under grants from Spain and Mexico, and to negotiate treaties with them for the purpose of establishing proper relations between them and the government and citizens of the United States. It is believed that by pursuing a wise and liberal policy towards them—which their peculiar situation indicates and invites—they will in a few years be fitted to become citizens; and being industrious, moral, and exemplary in their habits, will constitute a valuable portion of the population of the Territory. For a brief period, however, they will require agents to regulate their intercourse and manage their relations with the other Indians and the whites. The same commissioners could be charged with the further duty of entering into the necessary conventional arrangements with the wild tribes of the Territory. To manage these Indians properly, they also must have agents; and, in order to break up their practice of committing depredations and taking captives, they should be placed in situations where a proper vigilance and control can be exercised over them. Their forays into the Mexican territory can only be prevented by locating them at a considerable distance from the boundary line, and the establishing of military posts to prevent them from crossing it. The boundaries of the country allotted to the several tribes, respectively, should be clearly defined, and they should not be allowed to go beyond them without special permission. Thus situated and restrained, a portion of them would need the assistance of the government until brought to apply themselves to husbandry for the means of subsistence, instead of depending on plunder and the chase. The adoption of this, or some other efficient system of measures, would involve an expense far less than the amount for which the government will otherwise become liable on account of the just claims of our citizens and those of Mexico for spoiliations committed by these Indians; while it would obviate the serious evils that must result from the settlement and improvement of the country being greatly retarded. An obligation of the highest character rests upon us to redeem the captives among the Indians in New Mexico, represented to be numerous, and liberal appropriations will have to be made for that purpose.

For interesting and more particular information respecting our Indian affairs in this Territory, and especially in relation to the agency and organization required for their proper management, I respectfully refer to the accompanying letter (No. 33) from the Hon. H. N. Smith, and the reports from agent Calhoun.

We know but little of the Indians in Utah beyond the fact that they are generally peaceable in their disposition and easily controlled; but further and full information as to their peculiar condition and wants may soon be expected from the agent recently sent among them. I therefore refrain for the present from making any recommendation in regard to them, except that our trade and intercourse laws be extended over them.

Our Indian relations in Texas remain in the awkward and embarrassing state set forth in the annual reports from this office for the last five years, and particularly in that of my immediate predecessor. The laws providing for the regulation of trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes are not in force in Texas, nor can they, I apprehend, be extended there without the consent of that State. Thus, while an unfortunate state of things exists in Texas similar to that in New Mexico, and requiring, in general, the same remedial measures, we have not the power to put them in full and complete operation. The constitution, it is true, gives to Congress the power to regulate commerce with the Indian tribes; but that it can be rightfully exercised in such manner as to punish the citizens of that State for trespassing on lands occupied by the Indians, or trading with them unless licensed by the government, is a proposition that may well be controverted. What is required in regard to the Indians in Texas, is full and absolute authority to assign to them a suitable country, remote from the white population, for their exclusive occupancy and use, where we can make our own arrangements for regulating trade and intercourse with them, and adopt other measures for their gradual civilization and improvement. With this view, I respectfully suggest that a commissioner or commissioners be appointed to confer with the proper authorities of Texas on this important subject, for the purpose of effecting the conventional arrangements indispensable to a satisfactory adjustment of our Indian affairs in that State.

This measure, I submit, would be fully justified, if recommended alone, by the consideration that it would probably result in curtailing the immense and comparatively useless expense to which the government is now subjected in maintaining the large military force deemed necessary for the protection and defence of the citizens of Texas.

The arrangements adopted last year for the removal of the Seminole Indians in Florida to the country occupied by their brethren west of the Mississippi, failed of entire success; only a portion were removed, and a number still remain within the district temporarily assigned to them, on the gulf side of the peninsula. These continue, as heretofore, in charge of the military, and this department has no control or jurisdiction over them.

Notwithstanding the efforts that have been made, and the heavy expense incurred, during the last six years, to effect the removal of the Choctaws remaining in Mississippi, a considerable number still continue indisposed to migrate to the country provided for the tribe, west of the State of Arkansas. Anxiety is felt that the State of Mississippi shall be speedily relieved of this incumbrance, and the Indians transferred to more comfortable homes among their brethren, where they would be comparatively prosperous and happy. In view of past results, it is evident that more efficient measures are necessary to accomplish their removal. These, it is hoped, may be devised and put into successful operation at an early day.

Conceding the general wisdom and justice of the policy adopted in

1847, of paying the annuities to the Indians on the *per capita* principle, in my judgment there are material objections to the manner in which it has been practically applied. The regulation on this subject provides that a portion of the annuities may be set apart by the Indians for national and charitable purposes. These purposes, however, have never been particularly defined; rules are not prescribed for determining the amounts to be provided for them, nor have measures been taken to encourage the Indians to make so wise and beneficial a disposition of their funds. They naturally desire to receive individually the full amount of their respective shares, and, consequently, their entire annuities have been distributed equally among them. However fair and equitable this mode of payment may appear, it is not altogether just to the chiefs, nor consistent with sound policy. It is through the medium of the chiefs that the government holds intercourse and dealings with the tribes in the transaction of their more important business; and it is not unreasonable that they should expect more from the government than the common Indians receive, in consideration of their station and the services they perform. But, according to the present mode of paying their annuities, the Indians are all and alike placed on a common level; and, as no discrimination is made in favor of the chiefs, their influence is not only diminished, but a feeling of contempt for governmental authority in general is extensively inspired. Evils of no ordinary magnitude are thus produced, which, it is believed, may be remedied by a proper exercise of the discretionary power over this subject vested in the President and the Secretary of the Interior.

The greatest difficulty which the government and individuals have to contend with, in their efforts to ameliorate the condition of our Indians, is their strong and uncontrollable appetite for ardent spirits, and the facility with which they can still be procured, notwithstanding the stringency of our laws, and the strenuous efforts of the agents and military to prevent its introduction among them. It is a deplorable fact, that there are many persons engaged in the villanous business of smuggling liquor into the Indian country, while others, less daring, but equally depraved, are stationed near their borders for the purpose of carrying on an unholy traffic with them. The States within which these miscreants take refuge should be invoked to put an effectual stop to their abominations.

The work of collecting and digesting statistical and other information, illustrative of the history, condition, and future prospects of the Indian tribes, has been unremittingly prosecuted, and the results, it is believed, will not only be of much general interest, but highly useful to the department in the administration of our Indian affairs. The first part of these investigations is in press, and will be laid before Congress at an early period of the ensuing session.*

The present force of this office is less than in former years, and inadequate to the prompt discharge of its greatly augmented and increasing duties. An additional number of clerks, and a thorough reorganization of the department, are indispensably necessary. But as a full and satisfactory exposition of the measures required in this connexion would involve elaborate detail, they will form the subject of a special communication.

Respectfully submitted.

L. LEA, *Commissioner.*

HON. A. H. H. STUART,

Secretary of the Interior.

* For paragraph relative to "estimates," see letter H, at the end of accompanying documents.

Schedule of papers accompanying annual report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the year 1850.

1. Report of Superintendent D. D. Mitchell, St. Louis superintendency.
2. Report of Agent Thomas Fitzpatrick, Upper Platte and Arkansas.
3. Report of Agent C. N. Handy, Osage River agency.
4. Report of Teacher David Lykins, Osage River agency.
5. Report of Teacher Jotham Meeker, Osage River agency.
6. Report of Sub-agent W. P. Richardson, Great Nemaha sub-agency.
7. Report of Teacher W. Hamilton, Great Nemaha sub-agency.
8. Report of Sub-agent T. Mosely, jr., Wyandot sub-agency.
9. Report of Sub-agent H. Harvey, Osage sub-agency.
10. Report of Teacher Rev. J. Schoenmakers, Osage sub-agency.
11. Report of Sub-agent J. E. Barrow, Council Bluffs sub-agency.
12. Report of Sub-agent W. S. Hatton, Upper Missouri sub-agency.
13. Report of Superintendent Governor A. Ramsey, Minnesota superintendency.
14. Report of Agent J. E. Fletcher, Winnebago agency.
15. Report of Sub-agent N. McLean, St. Peter's sub-agency.
16. Report of Teacher J. S. Williamson, St. Peter's sub-agency.
17. Report of Teacher S. R. Riggs, St. Peter's sub-agency.
18. Report of Teacher S. M. Cook, St. Peter's sub-agency.
19. Report of Teacher J. W. Hancock, St. Peter's sub-agency.
20. Report of Teacher G. H. Pond, St. Peter's sub-agency.
21. Report of Teacher R. H. Hopkins, St. Peter's sub-agency.
22. Report of Physician T. S. Williamson, St. Peter's sub-agency.
23. Report of superintendent of farms, P. Prescott, St. Peter's sub-agency.
24. Report of Sub-agent J. L. Watrous, Sandy Lake sub-agency.
25. Report of Teacher F. H. Caming, Mackinac agency.
26. Report of Sub-agent A. Johnston, California.
27. Report of Agent J. S. Calhoun, November 17, 1849, Santa Fe.
28. Report of Agent J. S. Calhoun, March 29, 1850, Santa Fe.
29. Report of Agent J. S. Calhoun, March 30, 1850, Santa Fe.
30. Report of Agent J. S. Calhoun, March 31, 1850, Santa Fe.
31. Report of Agent J. S. Calhoun, July 15, 1850, Santa Fe.
32. Report of Agent J. S. Calhoun, October 12, 1850, Santa Fe.
33. Report of Hon. H. N. Smith, March 9, 1850, Santa Fe.
34. Extract from report of J. H. Rollins, special agent, Texas.
- A. Letter of instructions to Commissioners Gaines, Skinner, and Allen, Oregon.
- B. Letter of instructions to Superintendent A. G. Dart, Oregon.
- C. Letter of instructions to Commissioners McKee, Barbour, and Wozencraft, California.
- D. Letter of instructions to Todd, Campbell, and Temple, New Mexico.
- E. Report of Joseph Lane, late superintendent of Indian affairs, Oregon Territory.
- F. and G. Statements of funds held in trust for various Indian tribes, and annual income thereon.

No. 1.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
St. Louis, September 14, 1850.

SIR: In submitting my annual report for the present year, I must, as usual, refer you to the reports of the agents and sub-agents for details in regard to Indian affairs comprised within the limits of this superintendency.

It, however, affords me much pleasure to be able to state that, so far as I am informed, the condition of the border tribes is gradually though slowly improving. Every year seems to impress them with the necessity of improving their *minds* as well as their fields and gardens. In my annual report of last year I directed the attention of the department to many changes which I considered important, so far as the agencies, sub-agencies, and existing regulations were concerned. Experience during the last year has only tended to confirm me in the belief that these changes would have a very beneficial effect, so far as the Indians are concerned, and prevent many annoyances and inconveniences to which the officers of the Indian department are now subjected. For information concerning the border tribes I therefore respectfully refer you to my annual report of 1849.

No changes of importance have occurred during the present year which would seem to require any special action on the part of the department, so far as the border tribes are concerned. With the prairie, or wandering tribes, inhabiting the vast region of country lying between the Missouri and the State of Texas, the case is somewhat different.

In the beginning of the present year they were induced to believe that the government of the United States would make them some compensation for the depredations committed upon their soil, during the last four years, by troops, emigrants, and travellers passing through their country *en route* for Santa Fe, Oregon, and California. With these *implied* assurances they have remained comparatively quiet up to the present time; but they confidently expect that the conditional promises of the agents of the government will be carried out during the ensuing season. If any one is to be blamed for producing this impression on the minds of the prairie tribes, I trust the whole responsibility will rest on me, as I authorized the agents and sub agents, as well as the Indian traders, to say to the mountain and prairie tribes (who considered themselves aggrieved) that their Great Father would see that they were fairly dealt with, and that any injuries they might have sustained in consequence of the destruction of their game, timber, and grass, by the passage of the whites through their country, would be fairly paid for by the government of the United States. In making this promise, I felt myself fully justified by the action of the United States Senate and the wishes of the late President of the United States, General Taylor.

I had the honor, during the last winter, of having a bill introduced into the Senate "authorizing the President of the United States to hold a treaty with the various prairie and mountain tribes," the objects of which were to compensate them for the destruction of their game, timber, grass, &c., by the citizens and soldiers of the United States passing through their country without their knowledge or consent. This bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent; and it is much to be regretted that the

unhappy difficulties existing on the subject of slavery delayed the Senate bill in the House of Representatives until it was too late to be carried into effect during the present year. Measures have, however, been taken to explain this to the various tribes interested, and up to this time they have continued to deport themselves in a manner that gives no just cause of complaint. For a full understanding of this contemplated and promised treaty I refer you to the Senate bill appropriating "two hundred thousand dollars" for this specific purpose. The bill passed the Senate *unanimously*, but was delayed in the lower house until the time for action (during the present year) had passed. I still hope it will pass during the present session of Congress, and the *just* and *humane* objects contemplated be carried out during the summer of 1851.

I presume the reports of the agents, sub-agents, and superintendents of the manual-labor schools established among the border tribes will inform the department of the almost total failure of their crops during the last summer, owing to the extraordinary drought of the last season.

This dispensation of Providence falls heavily not only upon the Indians, but the various missionary societies who have undertaken to educate the Indian children at a very inadequate compensation. I would therefore recommend that any aid that can be afforded them out of the education fund should be promptly furnished; otherwise, their limited means will not enable them to carry out their contracts in a manner satisfactory to the department or useful to the Indians.

I regret to say that great dissatisfaction exists among the tribes who are the recipients of annuities from the general government; and in my humble opinion, their complaints are well founded. It has been the practice of the department for many years past to adjudicate and allow claims against the various border tribes, and retain portions of their annuities to satisfy the claimants. These claims are generally allowed upon *ex parte* statements of the whites. It too frequently happens that the first information the Indians receive of the existence of certain claims against them, is from the agents and sub-agents when their annuities are about to be paid. They are then told that so many thousand dollars of their money have been retained, and paid over to individuals who presented claims of a national character against them at Washington city.

It is useless for the Indians to protest against it, or deny the justice of the claim; the only satisfaction they can get, is the poor one of abusing the government and its officers. They claim, and, in my opinion, with great justice and propriety, that the *whole* amount of their annuities should be fairly and honestly paid over to them, and let *them*, in their national or individual capacities, settle with their creditors.

By adopting this course, the character of the Indian would be elevated, and all complaints of the kind would necessarily cease; and when it was once understood that such would be the *invariable* practice, no Indian trader, or any one else, would have a right to complain. If they credited the Indians, it would be at their own risk, and with a full knowledge of the fact that they must look *only* to the Indians for payment. All claims against the Indians, either of a national or individual character, should be presented in the Indian country, at the time their annuities are being paid; this would at least give the Indians an opportunity of producing testimony, on their part, against any claim they might denounce as fraudulent or unjust. Should the officer making the payment be convinced

that the claim was just, and the Indians, notwithstanding, refuse to pay it, let it be his duty to report *all* the facts of the case to the department, for its future action.

Whilst on this subject, I will venture the opinion that no department of the government—nay, not even the President of the United States, nor Congress itself—has the legal power to take one dollar out of the Indian annuities, for any purpose whatever, without their knowledge or consent. I have always considered treaty stipulations as paramount to all other laws or regulations. If this be admitted, whence does any Executive department of the government, or even Congress, derive the power to withhold money which the faith and honor of our nation are pledged to pay to another? If the department has the authority which has been so long exercised over the Indian annuities, then our treaties with these unfortunate and feeble nations are nothing more than solemn mockeries.

We entered into treaty stipulations with Mexico, by which we pledged our national faith and honor to pay her, in the shape of annuities, fifteen millions of dollars, the price of lands ceded by her to the United States. Have we the legal right to take any portion of this money and pay it over to merchants or other American citizens who may have claims against the republic of Mexico or the citizens thereof? If we have not the authority in the one case, I cannot understand how or why we have it in the other. These suggestions are made merely for the consideration of the department, as I feel it to be a part of my duty to protect the rights and interests of the Indians within this superintendency, as far as practicable.

In expressing these views, I am fully sustained by several gentlemen eminent for legal attainments with whom I have conversed. Some of them go so far as to contend that the Indians have a clear right to require the government of the United States to refund every dollar that has not been paid in accordance with their treaty stipulations. This subject, I trust, will receive such consideration as its importance seems to me to demand.

I am informed by Indian traders, recently from the Platte and Upper Missouri, that several bands of the Sioux Indians have suffered severely by the cholera. This epidemic, they contend, was introduced by the whites, for the purpose of causing their more speedy annihilation. Super-added to this fresh cause of complaint, they, together with other prairie tribes, continue to remonstrate in threatening language against the destruction of their game, timber, &c., by the whites passing through their country, and the establishment of military posts by the government. However we may despise their threats, policy and humanity require that they should, to some extent, be compensated and pacified.

Respectfully, your most obedient servant,

D. D. MITCHELL,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. L. LEA,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

St. Louis, *September 24, 1850.*

SIR: It is probable that I may soon return to my agency on the upper Platte and Arkansas; and as it is far advanced in the season, and means of corresponding with your office from that remote region is seldom and far between, I take the liberty, while here, of making a few remarks before my departure. In the discharge of my duties, my isolated position and the uncertainty of transmitting and receiving documents are such, as to promote and justify strong suspicions of negligence, and a want of proper regard and attention to the rules and requirements of the department. Such, however, is not the case, as nothing could give me more pleasure or agreeable occupation than to be able, and have means to comply with, and perform to the very letter, every order and requisition of the department. I have on a former occasion alluded to this, as well as to other inconveniences to which I am subjected in endeavoring to carry out the instructions of the department. The want of a good interpreter, or interpreters, as well as the want of some station or place of refuge whereat to transact business, other than the wide prairies, are amongst the inconveniences alluded to. No person who speaks the Indian languages well, can be engaged for the sum of three hundred dollars per annum, which the department allows for that purpose, unless it is for short intervals during the summer season, when trade with the Indians is in a manner suspended; the traders at all times paying good interpreters nearly and often double the amount allowed by the department, as well as furnishing subsistence, which is costly in that country. Indeed, no person, who is under the necessity of purchasing his food, clothing, &c., could maintain himself on \$300 per annum in that country: therefore, it is only when such men are out of the service of traders that they can be engaged at all, and then only for a short time.

It may easily be perceived, too, that having property for distribution amongst the various tribes of that remote and wild region requires a greater protection and a more judicious care than it is possible, or in the power of one man, to give it—exposed as he necessarily must be, when without protection or habitation of any kind, to all the vicissitudes of prairie life, to say nothing about the thieving and rapacious disposition of the Indians, as well as of some white men, sometimes to be met with in that country.

It may be asked why the agent does not make his headquarters at Fort Laramie, where he could have every facility, and all the assistance and protection necessary, instead of rambling about and over the prairies; to which may be replied, that Fort Laramie is at the extreme northern limits of the agency; and, besides, the Indians of that part of the district have never been so hostile and troublesome as those further south; and, moreover, at the time of entering on my official duties, the whole upper Arkansas and a great portion of the Santa Fe road were beset and continually ravaged by roaming and hostile bands of Indians, and I was at the time instructed by the department to establish and make my headquarters at Bent's Fort, on the upper Arkansas, where any benefit arising from the presence of an agent was most wanted, on account of the refractory disposition of the Indians of that section of country. Those instructions were judicious, as the difference between the present state of that district

and of the time of which I write will show. Last year the department furnished \$5,000, to be laid out in the purchase of such merchandise as would suit the Indians of that country, with instructions to distribute them as presents to the different tribes. This was performed to the best of my abilities; and although the amount was small in comparison to the great number of Indians to be dealt with, yet I can with confidence assert the measure to have been productive of much good. And although I have thought proper to make the foregoing remarks in regard to being alone and unprotected, &c., yet I have had no reason to complain of the Indians or their conduct for the past two years; nor am I aware of any act of aggression committed by the Indians alluded to, on whites, during that time. The \$5,000 alluded to above was laid out by me in St. Louis, in the purchase of such articles of merchandise as I thought the Indians most desired, and were shipped to Fort Leavenworth, at which place I was informed I could obtain transportation and a safe escort to my destination on the upper Arkansas; but being refused any assistance at that post, I again shipped the goods on board a steamboat, and descended the Missouri river to Kansas landing, and at Westport made an agreement for the transportation to Bent's Fort, or any part of the upper Arkansas, at six cents per pound; thence to the north fork of Platte river, or Fort Laramie, at three cents per pound for any quantity that might be remaining on hand at leaving the Arkansas country. But finding it somewhat inconvenient, after arriving amongst the Indians, and ascertaining them to be much scattered, and knowing it to be essential to see them all, and not having the party with whom I travelled subject to my control, I saw proper, instead of confining myself to such movements as the said party saw fit to make, to become more independent and shape my course and management as circumstances and the promotion of the most good required. I therefore hired a wagon, team, and driver, at \$3 per diem, as long as I saw proper to retain them. With this aid I departed from the Arkansas river on the 15th of November, and after diverging on many occasions from the usual route, in order to meet the scattered bands of Indians, I arrived at Fort Laramie on the 24th of December, at and in the vicinity of which I remained about seven weeks, during which time I visited many bands of Indians in their winter encampments, all of whom I found exceedingly friendly and well disposed. On the 16th of February, 1860, I left the neighborhood of Fort Laramie, and the north fork of Platte river, at which time and from which place I wrote you a brief account of my proceedings. I returned again to the Arkansas river, where I arrived on the 15th of March, and descended the river to a place called the Big Timber. At this point I found a party of traders, and also a part of nearly all the Indian tribes of that country, assembled for the purpose of meeting me again in order to ascertain at what time, and at what place, the representatives of their "Great Father" wished to meet them in council, and for what purpose.

This assemblage of the different tribes took rise from conversations held with them while passing up the Arkansas in the fall, telling them that their "Great Father" had it in contemplation to call a council of all the prairie tribes, for the purpose of making and entering into a treaty of peace and amity with all; thereby to have a clear and definite understanding, and a foundation on which to base future proceedings. At the Big Timber I remained nearly a month, having in the mean time held frequent meetings

and conversations with the Indians, and became convinced that they felt great interest and anxiety in regard to the contemplated treaty. I then continued down the Arkansas river, by slow and easy marches, in company with the traders and all the Indians, until we arrived at the crossing of the great Santa Fe thoroughfare. Here we made another halt until the 10th of June, on which day, after disbanding the Indians, and recommending each band to proceed to their own proper hunting grounds, I took my departure for this place. My object for remaining so long on the Arkansas, and in the vicinity of the Santa Fe road, was, that I had still hopes of receiving further and more definite instructions in regard to the manner of preparation and proceeding in bringing about the contemplated treaty, before mentioned. And I regret exceedingly that the whole arrangement has not been completed the past summer, as I am confident that the Indians of that country will never be found in better training, or their disposition more pliable, or better suited to enter into amicable arrangements with the government, than they are at the present time. And I can with confidence and perfect knowledge further state, that delays and putting off matters of this kind with Indians is a thing they can hardly brook, as they will invariably attribute such delays to a course of tampering and temporizing, in order to gain time for the purpose of maturing some plan or occasion for their disadvantage or injury. Indians are exceedingly jealous and selfish, as well as full of deception; yet, strange to say, there is nothing they abhor more than to find such characteristics in a white man.

During my stay at the crossing of the Arkansas, and ascertaining that the Comanches were south of us, in the adjacent country, (and being the only Indians in the whole district confided to me, not represented in the assembled multitude,) I, for the second time in the past year, sent them a friendly invitation to come over and join me, with the others at the "crossing," that we might hold a friendly talk, and also to receive some presents which their "Great Father" had sent them. They received the messengers with kindness and hospitality, and returned me for answer that they entertained no hostile or bad feelings whatever towards the Americans, and were determined in future to remain on friendly terms with all the whites, and not disturb or molest parties passing along the Santa Fe road, but that a meeting with the Americans this season could not be granted, on account of cholera, which their "medicine men," or prophets, prophesied would come again from the whites and prevail amongst them, unless they kept at a proper distance. This was the only reason they gave for not coming to see me in a peaceable and friendly manner, like all the others. They also stated that, after the present crop of grass died away, the cholera—that dreadful disease, by which so many of their nation died—would also have no existence; after which they would have no hesitation or dread of meeting and mingling with the whites at any time. The following are the names of the different tribes which assembled with me at the crossing of the Arkansas, all of whom seemingly entertain the best and most friendly feelings towards us: the Sioux, Cheyennes, Arripahoes, Kiawas, and Apaches. The Apaches here mentioned are not those of New Mexico which have been ravaging that country for years; they are a band of fifty lodges, that have for many years lived with the Kiawas and Comanches, and have aided them in all their wars against both Mexicans and Americans. Those tribes herein mentioned are all very formidable, and the most warlike on this continent,

and occupy, indiscriminately, the country, for several hundred miles, through which all the great thoroughfares to New Mexico, Oregon, and California pass. The importance of putting forth adequate means to keep this formidable horde of savages in check is so evident, under the circumstances, that I need not dwell on the subject, further than to state that it is much more easily done than is generally imagined, but must be accomplished by men having a good knowledge of Indian character, manners, customs, &c., and, above all, of their deception, cunning, rascality, and mode of warfare.

It is much to be regretted that the instructions of the department to me last year, in regard to taking a delegation from each tribe to Washington city, has not been carried out, as nothing, in my opinion, would have had a more beneficial effect (save an effective and severe chastisement of any one of the depredating tribes) than a visit of the principal men of each tribe to the United States; and, until such takes place, or until we show our strength and ability to protect ourselves, by giving some one of the most unruly tribes a good flogging, I much fear that any treaties which may be made or entered into with them will not be very lasting—at least not longer than they may consider it advantageous; because they have not the slightest idea whatever of the strength and power of the United States, and all overtures made, or favors extended them, even in the most liberal sense, will be construed as a sign of our weakness and inability (otherwise than by bribery) to protect our citizens travelling through the country. Indeed, these impressions are beginning to prevail amongst the Indian tribes of that country already, and have arisen from the fact of so many blundering, useless, and shamefully-managed campaigns against a few miserable, wretched Indians of New Mexico, by our troops, since the conquest and occupation of that country; all of which campaigns have been not only useless, but injurious to our cause throughout the whole Indian country, and a total failure of the end and object aimed at.

Many complaints have reached us from New Mexico, within the last two years, in regard to the negligence of the United States government in not extending to the inhabitants of that territory a greater and more reliable protection than they have yet received. Those complaints, in my opinion, are groundless, so far as the United States government is concerned, because enough of troops, if properly managed, have been stationed in that country to secure and protect the people against all the Indians able to reach it. Those men who complain so loudly are men who traffic and trade in that country, and live and thrive on the expenditure of the troops; they care less about the protection of the inhabitants than they do about augmenting and increasing the expenses of the general government in that country. I will further assert that five thousand troops stationed in Santa Fe, and a proportionate number in all the villages, hamlets, and *ranches* throughout New Mexico, would not produce a better state of things than at present, nor lessen the ravages of the Indians. This assertion may, and no doubt will, be considered erroneous, yet it is nevertheless true; and New Mexico, as well as all our distant western territory, (and which we are in duty bound to protect,) will always be in an unsafe and insecure condition, until our troops intended for such service, instead of remaining in garrison in a stupid and wretched state of indolence and dissipation, will take to campaigning and travelling over the country at all times when practicable; and that is invariably for

six, or even seven months in the year, if necessary. This course of action would not add to the expenses of maintaining the troops; on the contrary, I believe it would be a great saving, in many respects, and particularly in the article of forage, which is scarce, and at all times very dear in New Mexico.

I have heretofore frequently alluded to the subject, and still maintain that until some such course is adopted, no reliable state of safety or security from Indian depredations can or may be expected from the precarious and uncertain state of feeling and disposition of the uncivilized and untamed savage, whose chief and sole ambition is to plunder and destroy his fellow-man. Would it not be better, more healthy and more pleasant, for men to travel leisurely about the mountains and over the plains, watching and observing the movements and conduct of the Indians, where game, grass, good pasturage, &c., are to be found in abundance and of the very best quality, than to remain in garrison the whole time, and be subject and liable to the arrests and punishments which idleness and dissipation invariably bring upon the soldier? The answer is obvious—the soldier would be much better satisfied, more healthy and vigorous, and be found at all times in good condition and proper training, when active and important duties became necessary. Horses and other animals used in campaigning in that country would also become inured to the service, and thereby perform much better.

The very reverse, however, of all this is now and has been all along practised by our troops in New Mexico, which is the great secret of their inefficiency and inability to keep in check a few wretched savages. They (the troops) are quartered in Santa Fe and other villages of New Mexico, the society, associations and morals of which are not at all calculated to improve the soldier either physically or morally. They are, I repeat, stationed in those villages where all the most ruinous vices of the savage and civilized man are daily and hourly openly practised, and that, too, without even the check of public opinion to disapprove or condemn such conduct. What service, then, in a military point of view, can possibly be expected from men habituated for years or even months to such a life? It is this—when those men are suddenly called out by some emergency, not to prevent disaster nor to protect the inhabitants, (for the damage is already done,) but to chastise some marauding band of Indians for the murder and robbery of some of our citizens, they with reluctance leave their haunts of pleasure and enjoyment, and seldom or never overtake the enemy.

I have no disposition whatever to meddle or interfere with or disparage the portion of the army in that country, as many if not all of them rendered good and gallant service in the Mexican war; but I must say that the information frequently coming from that country, and diffused with exaggeration throughout the whole district, will eventually have a ruinous effect on the feelings and disposition of the Indians of my agency; because there is nothing to keep them in check but a dread of the power of the United States, which they are now beginning to think is more imaginary than real. This, then, is the only reason I have for alluding to the career of the troops in New Mexico, and I hope it will be found a sufficient apology for doing so.

I have on many occasions received circulars from the department, instructing me to collect statistics, take the census of the different tribes, form a vocabulary of the different Indian languages, &c.; all of which I

conceive to be proper and important for the department to be in possession of, and would willingly and with great pleasure comply, had I the means and opportunity to do so. It is well known that the Indians of the upper Platte and upper Arkansas are all roaming tribes, speaking different languages, and live altogether by the chase, and are continually roaming about from place to place in search of game and subsistence. Under these circumstances is it not evidently difficult, if not impracticable, for me to comply with all these requisitions, situated as I have heretofore been, in that inhospitable region, without the necessary means of transportation or protection, or even interpreters at all times, to explain what I would wish to say to the Indians? And, besides, to make and pursue such investigations as would be necessary in the above cases, would, from the very nature of the very superstitious notions of those tribes, create great distrust and false notions in regard to the object, which would certainly have a very dangerous tendency.

What I now respectfully recommend to the department, and what I believe to be essentially necessary at this time—while the Indians of whom I speak are friendly disposed—is at once, and without further delay, to have some understanding with them in regard to the right of way through their country; and whatever our and their rights may be, let us and them know it, that we may have some data on which to base future proceedings. This is what the Indians want, and what they are exceedingly anxious about, having been told long since, and so often repeated by travellers passing, (and who care little about the consequences of false promises, so they slip through safely and unmolested themselves,) that their “Great Father” would soon reward them liberally for the right of way, the destruction of game, timber, &c., as well as for any kindness shown Americans passing through their country.

I have learned, since my arrival here from the Indian country, that troops had left Fort Leavenworth for the Arkansas river for the purpose of establishing a post at the “Big Timber,” on that stream. The measure is a good one, and the position eligible enough; but I fear the Indians will strongly object to a post being established at that particular place, as it is a great and favorite wintering ground for many of the tribes. There is in its neighborhood at all times during the winter an abundance of buffalo, antelope, deer and elk; good pasture and fuel are also abundant.

The Indians occupying the upper Platte and upper Arkansas districts are very numerous, and very formidable. They subsist entirely by the chase, and have no permanent abode whatever. They follow the game from place to place, and, as it becomes scarce, they are compelled to increase their movements. Through these districts all the great leading thoroughfares pass; and the immense emigration travelling through that country for the past two years has desolated and impoverished that country to an enormous extent. Under these circumstances, would it not be just, as well as economical policy, for the government at this time to show some little liberality, if not justice, to their passive submission? For my own part, I am satisfied it would be economical, and good policy, for the government at this time to extend even a little show of justice to the Indians of that country, and to avoid a hostile collision if possible; because, if we may judge from the difficulties, disasters, and expenditures occurring in New Mexico, in endeavoring to guard against a few miserable, unarmed wretches, what then will be the consequences

should twenty thousand well armed, well mounted, and the most warlike and expert in war of any Indians on the continent, turn out in hostile array against all American travellers through their country?

This must suffice for my annual report; and I regret not having been able to have submitted it from the Indian country, as in that case it might have been more full and complete in details.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS FITZPATRICK,

Indian Agent, Upper Platte and Arkansas.

D. D. MITCHELL, Esq.,

Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Mo.

No. 3.

OSAGE RIVER AGENCY,

September 6, 1850.

SIR: I would respectfully make the following brief report of the affairs of the Osage River agency for the year 1850. A residence among the Indian tribes belonging to this agency for seventeen months has better fitted me to judge correctly of their condition and wants than at the time I last reported to the department. The residence of the agent for this agency is among the Sac and Fox tribe of Indians. This tribe of Indians number more than double that of any other in my agency—in all about 3,000. They are divided into nine separate bands, each of which is headed by one recognised as a chief. In many instances their leaders are selected from among their braves, and declared their leaders more on account of their heroic deeds than from the fact of inheriting their blood from the royal chieftaincy. It is owing to this mode of selecting their chiefs that we attribute the want of good and competent men. There are two principal chiefs (acting authorized chiefs) in this tribe with whom we transact most of the business of the nation—Keokuk and No-y-oh-cos-see; they are honest and better fitted for their station than most other Indians occupying similar posts. The Sac and Fox Indians are now in a state of peace and quietude, no disturbances occurring amongst them; they are entirely under the control of their agent so far as any matter of business is concerned. There are some things, however, that I cannot control them in; one of the most important of which is the use of intoxicating drinks. These they have used to a greater extent in the last eight months than ever before. I have exerted myself to the extent of my capacity to prevent the introduction and use of them, but all to no effect. In many instances we want the authority (or law;) in others we want the means to execute the authority we have.

Since making my last report, six murders have been committed in this tribe; all of which resulted from the use of intoxicating drinks. I have yet but little encouragement from them as regards the introduction of missionaries and the establishment of schools among them; indeed such a proposition has, in many instances, excited them almost to hostilities. I yet hope, ere long, through the exertion of their two principal chiefs, to succeed in establishing one of the largest schools in the Indian country. Of all the affairs connected with this tribe of Indians there is

none that affords me more pleasure to speak of than the advanced state of their farming pursuits. They have tilled this season five or six hundred acres of land in corn; but, unfortunately for them, there has been an entire failure of the crop, owing to the dryness of the season, having had but one good rain since planting time up to this date, and the thermometer for six weeks ranging from 95° to 110°.

The Sac and Fox Indians complain much about the government paying their money for old claims (they say) without their consent. At the payment last spring there was much excitement upon the subject. They have now erecting a spacious council house, office, and wareroom. This room is intended to be used for two purposes—for storing away their salt, tobacco, &c.; and when not required for this, as a hospital for the sick. We have now under consideration the propriety of building a hospital, which is much needed.

The Kansas Indians for the last eight months have been in continued bustle and excitement. Their number will not vary much from my last report. There have been some few murders. Among the number murdered is one of their chiefs, Ko-buck-co-mo, a very bad and dangerous man. His death is regretted by neither white nor red man. They have committed many depredations on the Santa Fé road, and are continually stealing horses from the neighboring tribes. It was, indeed, with much difficulty that I could prevent the Sac and Fox Indians from invading their country and punishing them for their frequent outrages upon their property. The Kansas Indians have become great whiskey dealers as well as drinkers; they often travel a distance of two or three hundred miles for whiskey, making it convenient to steal a poney or two as they pass along, and exchange the same with those miserable whites along the line for whiskey. They have had broken for them this season three hundred acres of land, which was planted in corn. I fear, however, they will not till this land in future. They have no inclination to work. The Methodist church have now in progress of erection, under the superintendence of Rev. Thomas Johnson, buildings to be used in conducting the Manual Labor School chartered by the department. There will be an effort to complete them this fall.

The Miami Indians have conducted themselves during the present year much better than formerly. The amount of intoxicating drinks used in this tribe is much less than heretofore; consequently, the number of deaths is less. About thirty of the tribe have signed a pledge which prohibits the use of all intoxicating drinks for one year. The farming operations of this tribe have been carried on during the present season with unusual success; indeed, I have been agreeably disappointed in being able to persuade these people to go to work. A majority of the tribe have this season aided in cultivating the public farms—many of them were to be seen following the plough and wielding the maul. They will make a good crop, considering the season has been bad. They are now preparing to sow wheat. They have now fully completed a very superior mill, which has recently been put into operation. I think they will now build themselves good houses and open more farms. These people are now in a better condition than ever before: they have raised an abundance of corn, and have a mill to grind it; and, what is still better, all of those little hordes which have heretofore been hanging about the State line, and the groceries along the line, have mostly broken up

and moved near to the mission buildings. For their improved condition, much credit is due to Amos H. Goodin, their farmer. The Miamies are now much concerned about the fate of their mission. They have made a unanimous call upon the government to place the mission in the hands of the Baptist denomination, and they promise to aid in building up a flourishing school. Upon this subject, however, I have called the attention of the department before. These Indians, like the Sacs and Foxes, complain heartily against the government for allowing the payment of large claims out of their annuity—many of which they say are not just, and some are entitled to large credits upon them.

The Ottawas have, as usual, pursued their avocation, (of farming,) having entirely abandoned the hunt. Most of them have erected houses and opened farms. They have among them a small grist-mill, which is sufficient for their purposes. This tribe is somewhat on the increase; they have their own laws, officers, &c.; about seventy of them are members of the Baptist church; they suffer no liquor to be introduced into their country. I consider these Indians much further advanced in civilization than any other tribe on the frontier. There is no school in operation at this time among them; they have, however, a missionary residing there who administers to their spiritual wants; and, indeed, to him may be attributed their advanced state of civilization.

The Weas, Piankeshaws, Kaskaskias, and Peorias, whose lands are adjoining, are living in a state of peace and happiness. Indeed, such is the harmony of feeling existing among them, that they may be looked upon (almost) as one and the same tribe. They have at this time propositions before the government for disposing of their surplus lands, and confederating into one body, making their annuities joint means, each sharing alike. I am much in hopes this confederation may be brought about. Of the particulars concerning this movement, the department is already in possession. These tribes, generally, are in an advanced state of civilization; they ape the white man more than any other Indians, and seek every opportunity to improve themselves; most of them live in log-houses, and have small fields about them which they cultivate in corn, potatoes, &c. Had they the means of other Indians around them, they could soon be at the head of their red brothers in point of condition.

Upon the lands of the Wea tribe is located the Baptist mission, superintended by the Rev. David Lykins. This school is, indeed, in a flourishing condition; the yearly number of scholars is about thirty five; the children are generally healthy, and have improved much in their tuition during this year. This mission has received but little aid from the government; and I think there has been more real good growing out of it than any other mission in the Indian territory. The influence of this mission, under the management of that most worthy man, the Rev. David Lykins, has not only tended to advance the condition of the children immediately under his charge, but may be found in every wigwam or house in the Territory. Much credit is also due to Miss S. A. Osgood, who is at the head of the female department of this school. She is a most estimable young lady, and is peculiarly well fitted for the position which she occupies. I am in hopes that this school will receive some aid from the civilization fund this year.

The Chippewas during the present year have made renewed efforts towards improving their farms and increasing their stock. The frequent

depredations committed by their neighbors, the Sac and Fox Indians, tend to discourage them in their efforts. They are very industrious, and make use of all the means in their power to improve their condition. Their annuity is small; in fact, I might say nothing: they are, therefore, unable to fit themselves out for farming or any other vocation. It would, indeed, be a piece of charity well bestowed to make these Indians a few presents in the way of horses, farming utensils, &c.

The smith-shops among the different tribes are all being carried on, and well supplied with materials. It is with much difficulty that I can obtain a suitable person to remain at the Council Grove, among the Kansas Indians, owing to their remoteness from the State, and the want of protection from the insults and threats of these Indians. I have appointed no interpreter for the Kansas Indians, for the reason that I could find no suitable person. I have, therefore, selected persons temporarily, at such times as I found need, and paid them for the time actually in service. While speaking of interpreters, I will take occasion to say that the salaries, as a general thing, are not sufficient to procure suitable men: for instance, the Sac and Fox interpreter is needed most all of his time with the agent, yet the agent has frequently to get along without him, his services being required by the surgeon, and with him he must frequently make a visit of 10 or 15 miles. The residence of the agent and interpreter is the home of the Indian—their doors are always open and their table is always spread. The interpreter must be a reliable man—a man of intelligence; he must be one who will live clear of all other influences, especially those of the traders and other whites. In conclusion, then, I say the salary is not sufficient to procure such a man, who will live clear of other interests and influences.

The different reports from missionaries, surgeon, and farmer, have not yet been received; they will be forwarded as soon as they come to hand.

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

CHARLES N. HANDY,
Indian Agent.

Colonel D. D. MITCHELL,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Mo.

No. 4.

WEA AND PIANKESHAW SCHOOL,
Osage River Agency, September 3, 1850.

SIR: In accordance with the regulations of the Indian department, I take great pleasure in laying before you the condition of this school during the past year, and its present condition. I trust, sir, you will pardon me, if I also refer, in this report, to the Indians generally in this part of your extensive field of agency. And let me assure you, sir, that it affords me the highest gratification to note the rapid improvement of the Indians in this vicinity, under your *prompt* and *efficient* administration of their affairs; and it affords me peculiar pleasure to believe (notwithstanding what disappointed ambition or cupidity may say) that those employed by you in the Indian country are such men as will exercise a *good, moral influence*. I am aware, sir, that it requires great *moral nerve*

to discharge duties which, though often painful, are as often absolutely incumbent upon an officer of government among the Indians. The improvement the past year, among the three bands in whose country our school is situated, has been greater than that of any preceding year, since we have been among them. New land has been ploughed, rails made, fields fenced, and a considerable number of houses built of hewed logs. There has been much less whiskey introduced into the country, and not more than one case of intoxication where there were formerly three. In a good degree the above remarks will apply to the Miamies, now quite a respectable people.

The school under our charge is conducted on the manual-labor plan, and has averaged the past year thirty five children. I cannot speak too highly in commendation of the untiring efforts of Miss S. A. Osgood, principal teacher, in behalf of the school, from whose annual report I take the following extract:

"With pleasure I write that the present condition of Harvey Institute is prosperous and encouraging. The number enrolled last year is 42—26 boys and 16 girls. The attendance has been more regular than in any preceding year; consequently, more good has resulted from our efforts. One of our girls (daughter of Baptiste Peoria) is happily married to one of her tribe, whose attainments are equal with hers. One of our most interesting little girls has been taken from us by death.

"The entire number of readers of various grades is 32, more than half of whom read with facility, and several are good readers.

"The writing pupils number 24, many of whom write neatly. In most cases, the scholars of this school surpass in penmanship those of white schools I have taught.

"The little girls excel in sewing and fancy needle-work. We hope, as our girls grow up, to send them out well fitted to perform the duties of housekeeper, wife, &c.

"Other branches taught are geography, arithmetic, grammar, and composition; in all of which the pupils have made gratifying progress.

"All the children in school are rapidly acquiring the English language."

The above, in short, comprises the past and present condition of the school; and when it is borne in mind that this school (with the exception of \$300) has been wholly supported from its commencement, a period of five years, by benevolent funds—the contributions of churches—I think it will be admitted "we have done what we could."

In conclusion, sir, permit me to express our thanks for your kind attentions, and our gratification that your efforts in the cause of Indian improvement have met with so much success.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID LYKINS,

Superintendent Harvey Institute.

Col. C. N. HANDY,
Agent, &c.

No. 5.

OTTOWA MISSION STATION,
September 3, 1850.

SIR: During the year now past the Ottowas have enjoyed better health than during any previous year since they emigrated to this country. They have almost entirely laid aside their former Indian habits, and have become in a great degree civilized: consequently they are improving in health and increasing in numbers. Since January 1, 1849, there have been among them six deaths and twenty-six births. Their habits of industry, temperance, and conformity to the customs of the whites, are every year becoming more and more firmly fixed. Since the opening of the last spring, many of them have added to their farms from five to fifteen acres. The prospect in the fore part of the season was, that they should have some two or three thousand bushels of corn and potatoes to sell, but the drought has been so great that their fields will not average, probably, more than five bushels to the acre.

Many of the adults who cannot speak English learn to read, write, and cipher in their own language, but send their children to English schools among the neighboring tribes. Twenty-three of their children are now at such schools.

The undersigned has, during the present year, been occupied principally in translating portions of Scripture, hymns, &c., into the Ottawa language, and in printing two small works of 255 pages. Regular Sabbath preaching and week-day prayer meetings have been continued as formerly. Good attention has generally been given to our religious meetings. Sixty-two are at this time members in good standing in the "Ottawa Baptist Mission Church."

About ten years ago the Ottowas found it necessary to make a law to prevent stealing; since which time they have occasionally been forming new ones. In January last they, in general council, formed four new laws, revised and corrected all they had previously adopted, and ordered that the whole should be printed both in Indian and English. They enforce these laws most strictly whenever violated. I herewith send you a copy of them.

Most respectfully, I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

JOTHAM MEEKER,
Missionary.

Colonel C. N. HANDY,
United States Indian Agent.

No. 6.

OCTOBER 21, 1850.

SIR: In conformity to existing regulations, I have to report the condition of the Indians within this sub agency.

The Iowas have raised this year not quite an average crop of corn, pumpkins, squashes, &c. The cause of the deficiency is no doubt attributable to the interruption produced by the California emigrants passing through their country, affording them new and increased facilities to ob-

tain ardent spirits. There is no perceivable change in their habits for the better, as regards industry or virtue; indeed I fear they are more lowly and dissipated than they were years since. In my judgment, the hope of improving their condition while they remain at their present home is extremely small. I speak of the adults, of course. The children who are at the Manual Labor Boarding School are very correct in their deportment, and learning rapidly. Under this impression, I would respectfully recommend that the proper authorities make a purchase of their country, and locate them at some place where it would be more difficult for them to procure ardent spirits. Should this recommendation be received with favor, and if action should be taken by the proper authorities to effect it, I may with propriety suggest that it would be useless to give these Indians a very large quantity of land, as in their most extended labors they have never cultivated more than one section of land in any one season. I would also beg leave to state, that in the event the government should purchase the lands of these Indians, no one thing will more contribute to their future welfare and preservation than the reservation of a distinct and separate fund, set apart for agricultural and mechanical purposes, and placed entirely beyond the control of the Indians.

The Missouri river Sacs and Foxes are not much given to dissipation, and are much more provident than is usual with our border tribes, and consequently are never in want of either food or necessary clothing. The pattern farm affords an abundant supply of breadstuffs for the entire band, though they make use of as much industry as is common with wild Indians to raise pumpkins, squashes, &c., &c., for themselves. The Sac and Fox farmer has cultivated eighty acres in corn, sowed forty acres of wheat, and planted about five acres in Irish potatoes, this year. The corn will average forty bushels to the acre; the potato crop will be light; the wheat was well put in, and bids fair to be a good crop. I had their mill repaired, and it is believed that it will do well. We ground for the Sacs and Foxes upwards of two hundred bushels of wheat before I left home.

I have had only five thousand rails made to repair the farm fence; at least ten thousand more will be required to make it a good fence. During this winter I shall be able to put the farm in good condition. Notwithstanding all the efforts I could make this summer, I have been unable to break any new lands for the Indians as yet, but feel confident that I can open the fields near their village in the spring, which they are so anxious to have.

I had expected before making this report to receive the report of the Rev. Messrs. Hamilton and Irvin, the superintendents of the Manual Labor Boarding School, giving a detailed account of its condition. This will be forwarded to you in a short time. It is owing to no neglect of duty on their part that the report is not here, for I should do injustice both to these gentlemen and my own feelings, if I closed this report without giving my humble testimony to the fidelity, diligence, and prudence, with which they have discharged their responsible and laborious duties to these poor Indians—laboring faithfully and industriously for their present and future welfare.

I would respectfully call your attention to the fund which was formerly given to the sub agent at this place to feed the Indians at the payments of

the annuity. Although a small sum, yet it assisted the agent in maintaining an influence which, if used with discretion, was, and would be, beneficial to the Indians and to the government.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

WM. P. RICHARDSON,

Sub-Indian Agent, Great Nemaha Sub-agency.

Colonel D. D. MITCHELL,

Superintendent Indian Affairs at St. Louis, Mo.

No. 7.

IOWA AND SAC MISSION,
November 4, 1850.

DEAR SIR: As you took an active part in the establishment of this school when formerly sub-agent for these two tribes of Indians, (Iowa and Sac and Fox,) it may be interesting to you and to the department to have a brief statement of the condition of the school since its commencement, upwards of four years since.

The school was opened in the spring or summer of 1846; but sickness in the mission family and want of proper help operated against it, so that during the fall of that year there were only eight children in the school, six Iowas and two half-blood Pottawatomies. On the 1st of November the children began to come in, and in a few weeks we had between thirty and forty scholars.

The following table will give, in round numbers, the average attendance of each year, with the number received, left, &c., &c.

The past year shows a less average number of scholars than the preceding one; but this is owing to the fact that the number of scholars decreased towards the close of that year, while during the past year they have gradually increased, having at the present date thirty nine scholars.

	1847.	1848.	1849	1850.
Number received, including those in the school,	70	45	40	40
Number left - - - - -	50	16	8	2
Number at the close of the year - - - - -	20	29	32	38
Average attendance - - - - -	24	24	34	32

Of those in the school, there are—

Reading and writing in English and Iowa	-	-	-	15
Geography - - - - -	-	-	-	1
Spelling (and some of them writing) - - - - -	-	-	-	20
Alphabet - - - - -	-	-	-	3

There are half-bloods—

Boys, 12; girls 5	-	-	-	17
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The scholars are from the following tribes, viz:

Iowas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	
Sac	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	half-blood.
Fox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	do
Snake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	do
Blackfeet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	do
Siox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	do
Ottoo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	

Some of those who have left the school can read in their own language.

For some time the children were taught in their own language, as it was thought useless to instruct them in the English while so many of them remained for so short a time. During the past summer they have been taught the English, and I think are making quite as good improvement as we could expect.

In addition to the instruction given to the children at the station, the adult Indians are visited at their homes for the purpose of imparting to them religious instruction. These visits are made three times a week, unless something providential occur to prevent them. The attention they give to preaching on these occasions is often good, and at other times quite indifferent. No special improvement is manifest amongst them; yet, we hope our labors in their behalf are not altogether in vain. Besides Mr. Irvin's family and my own, we have at present a female teacher, Miss S. A. Waterman, three hired girls; also one hired hand on the farm. The boys of the school did much towards raising and gathering our crop of corn, &c. Trusting you may be seconded by the department in your efforts to benefit these tribes, I remain, respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. HAMILTON.

Major W. P. RICHARDSON,
Indian Sub-Agent.

No. 8.

WYANDOTT INDIAN SUB-AGENCY,
September 4, 1850.

SIR: The time has arrived when it becomes necessary to make to you my annual report of the condition of the Wyandott Indians within this sub-agency; and in performing this duty I beg leave to make only a few remarks, as nothing of any great moment has occurred within this sub-agency since my last report, to require any lengthy essay or report.

I can discover no very prominent improvement in the condition or advancement of the Wyandotts. They seem to be gliding on calmly and leisurely, manifesting but little ambition for any extra public spirit. The new treaty now in progress forms, perhaps, some little exception to their contentment, as a portion of the nation, and not unlikely the largest, are averse to it; and, from all I can learn, the largest portion. The election last month, for a new board of chiefs, resulted in the choice of three out

of five opposed to the contemplated treaty. What may be the movement of those opposed to the treaty in future, I am not now prepared to say.

The schools of this nation are three, and are under the special care and direction of three school directors, chosen by the nation. For want of a more ample school fund, their schools are of the common order of country schools, as in the States. This year there have been taught in the three schools eighty four children. Each of the schools is under the superintendence of three young ladies from the States. There are two local preachers within the nation, and each has a Sunday school, very well attended by the Indian children. The last year's excitement in the nation about the church *South* and *North* has gradually subsided, and to some extent transferred upon the subject of the new treaty.

During the present year there has been an accession to the nation of some twenty persons of Wyandott origin, from the State of Ohio, who I presume have come hither to participate in the benefits of the new treaty, in anticipation of its supposed ratification.

A company of some eight or nine persons of the nation left this spring for California, which, with the number already there, amounts to twenty-three or twenty-four—all seeking for gold.

There have been but two deaths by cholera in the nation the past summer. We feel to have been most fortunate, for it has been near and all around us. There have been two murders committed upon Wyandott men within the last three months, in the State near here—the result of drunkenness. I made every exertion to find out the perpetrators of these murders. In one of the cases a white man was arrested in Jackson county, Missouri, charged by the Wyandotts with having killed one of their people; but after legal investigation, myself and the chiefs being present, the man was acquitted.

The nearness of the nation to the State of Missouri, and the facility of the Indians to obtain liquor, makes it next to impossible for the agent to restrain them from going to the State in search of it, without the co-operation of the State authorities.

I beg leave to remark that, by the treaty with this nation in the year 1842, there was granted to thirty four individuals of the nation a section of land each, to be located upon the public domain in the Indian country. Some of those persons entitled to this claim of land are becoming rather restless and dissatisfied, and say to me that injustice has been done them by their lands never having been surveyed and allotted them according to the said treaty of 1842. My reply to them was, to have some little more patience; that the government would certainly make good every stipulation in that treaty. I would, therefore, suggest that the land referred to be surveyed and allotted at as early a day as may be convenient, in fulfillment of said treaty of 1842.

A large portion of the Wyandotts have made good crops of corn and vegetables, sufficient for their support and some to spare. The health of the nation is now very good.

I certainly have no cause to murmur against the Wyandotts. In all matters wherein I have to act with and for them I find them kind, courteous and polite. I get along much to the mutual satisfaction of myself, the chiefs, and the nation at large; yet there are a few (and they are but few)

restless, mischief-making whites that occasionally annoy me, and also the nation.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS MOSELY, Jr.,
Indian Sub-Agent for Wyandotts.

Col. D. D. MITCHELL,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Missouri.

No. 9.

OSAGE SUB-AGENCY,
10th month 23, 1850.

ESTEEMED FRIEND: I now proceed to perform that part of my duty which requires me to report the state of affairs of the Indians under my care.

The Great and Little Osages number, according to the "pay roll" I have made out with much care, and which is believed to be correct, 4,561 souls. They have no farms, except those belonging to the half-breeds, the head chief, (George White Hair,) and a few others. The half-breeds manage their farms well; but, owing to the drought the past summer, the corn was all ruined. Most of the Indians who had no ground enclosed, planted lots of corn along the water-courses, where they could dig the ground with hoes, and thus cultivate the corn, and that at so great a distance from their villages as to be out of danger from being destroyed by their horses, and what little other stock they have. These lots of corn their women cultivated until all went on their "summer hunt;" but on their return recently, they found no corn, but all entirely ruined. I think I may safely say that there were not (including the missionaries and half-breeds, who tended their crops well) one hundred bushels of corn raised within the limits of the Osage nation this season. This is a sad affair for these Indians, and leaves them in a very destitute condition—as much so as they were in a few years since, when the flood swept their corn off. That subject then claimed the favorable attention of government, which I hope will now be the case in this equally calamitous dispensation of Divine Providence.

The Osages have been remarkably healthy the present year, which will appear from the number of deaths which has been ascertained, and will be seen in this report.

They have drank very little liquor in the nation, as may readily be inferred from the fact that but one murder has been committed the past year within the nation; and that was done when the parties were stupefied with whiskey, which I had destroyed as soon as I discovered it, but after a poor, drunken Indian was beaten to death. What they may have drank at the haunts of those wretches amongst our own race in the State who keep this poison for these poor Indians, I cannot say; but from what I learn from *honest* white men, the amount drank is not so great as heretofore. I have endeavored to do my duty in this matter, and hope my labors have not been lost.

The manual-labor school for the instruction of the Osage youth is within a few rods of the agency. I have noticed the progress of this

interesting school since my arrival in this country, as well as the conduct of the children when out of school; and I think it not out of place for me to remark here, that when I consider the adults composing the tribe from which these children were taken—bold, selfish, unconquered, entirely uncultivated, and most of them determined to carry with them to the end of their days their wild, romantic, and savage habits—and then observe the friendly, courteous, respectful, and genteel deportment of these children, I have no hesitation in giving it as my opinion that the managers of this school have done their duty faithfully.

I have just examined both branches of the school. The pupils appear to be attentive and obedient to their teachers; have advanced considerably (many of them) in their studies—some in arithmetic, grammar, and geography—in both departments of the school, and this class write well. Of the others, many of them read and write; and the girls, or at least most of them, make up their own clothing, as well as perform very fine needle-work and drawing, and are very helpful in cooking and other work appertaining to housewifery. For further particulars I refer to the report of the superintendent, which is appended. I may state, however, that there are eighty children—fifty-three boys and twenty-seven girls—in attendance at this time, which is about their regular number.

The first article of the treaty of 11th of January, 1839, provides that “the government will pay to the Great and Little Osages, for the term of twenty years, an annuity of \$20,000, to be paid in the Osage nation—\$12,000 in money, and \$8,000 in goods, stock, provisions, or money, as the President may direct.” The chiefs and headmen in general council proposed to me to ask the President to send them the whole \$20,000 in money each year in future. The reasons they give for a change in this matter are, “that they never receive such goods as they want; that every time the goods reach here, some articles are damaged; that this year the cloths and calicoes, or much of them, were nearly ruined; and that, as the government had to pay money for the goods, they hoped that their Great Father would hear them, and send in future the whole amount of their annuity in money.”

They begged of me to insist on a compliance with the above request, which I do with pleasure, and hope the President will comply, as I can assure him that were the goods of the right kind, and could they reach here entirely clear of damage, it would be impossible to divide them so as that all would get a part. It has, I learn, been the practice heretofore for the agent to divide the goods between the different bands according to their respective numbers; then deliver them to the chiefs, take their receipts, and let them distribute them among their people. This having been the practice heretofore, I pursued the same course at the payment just made, as the chiefs would not be satisfied with any other. Were the chiefs entirely divested of partiality and covetousness, (which they are not,) they could not divide these goods at all equally among their people, nor could any person. I suppose half the goods are composed of articles ranging in value from four to ten dollars; and such articles, too, as will not admit of being divided. The result, then, is, that a few get all these, while many others (and they generally the most needy) are turned off, very much disappointed, without the worth of one cent; when, were this \$8,000 sent in money, each one would receive about \$1 70,

which would enable the agent to see that each Osage got his or her just due.

I hope the President will turn his attention to this subject, and comply with the request of these Indians.

The goods sent the present year were all of a good quality, but badly injured, as will appear not only from my own statement and that of the chiefs, but from the statement of two respectable merchants, whose certificates, as well as one from the United States interpreter, I enclose for the information of the Indian department. These goods must have been damaged before being shipped at the east—from reasons which are given in these certificates—for, had they got injured on their way west, all the dry goods, being shipped together, would have been injured alike. I send this for the information of those concerned, and as a very strong and justifiable reason the Indians have for not wishing any more goods to be sent them here.

The Osages conducted themselves well at the payment just made; were much rejoiced to get the provisions which were furnished them at the payment, as they were actually suffering from want. There was no liquor on the ground, or in the nation, at the time of paying them, that I could hear of. Within three days from the time they commenced receiving their money they paid out for flour, coffee, sugar, rifles, (for their buffalo hunt,) clothing, &c., over \$11,000, and proceeded at once on their fall hunt, without visiting the white settlements as often heretofore, where liquor is provided and ready for them. They bought about 45,000 pounds of flour.

One other subject I beg leave to bring to the notice of the superintendent, which is in regard to the small amount of iron and steel furnished them each year. This amount, I know, is just the allowance under the treaty of 1839; but when we consider that it costs \$2,000 per annum to keep up the smith shop; that for this \$2,000 there are only 1,000 pounds of iron, and 160 pounds of steel; and that when the Osages shall receive such farming utensils as are provided for by the treaty, which consist of ploughs, gear, axes, and hoes, they will still need, as the farmer (or any one acquainted with farming) knows, many other articles which the smiths could make, and have ample time to make, and which they never can have made out of the small amount of iron now sent them, (as that will allow them but one and a half pound to the family,) I hope the amount of iron may be increased to 5,000 pounds, and of steel to 600 pounds. If the President will send money in lieu of goods, the amount paid for conveying the goods from New York or Philadelphia to this place being saved, would more than pay for the amount of iron and steel I want for these Indians.

Agreeably to instructions from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I have, with the aid of the United States interpreter, ascertained that the number of births the past year among the Osages amounts to about 150

Number of deaths	-	-	-	-	-	73
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Number of births over the number of deaths	-	-	-	77
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Of those who died, 17 were men, 25 women, and 31 children.

There are blind among this tribe	-	-	-	-	-	9
Deaf	-	-	-	-	-	5
Dumb	-	-	-	-	-	3
Aged persons entirely helpless, males	-	-	-	-	-	18
Do do do females	-	-	-	-	-	15
Cripples, entirely helpless	-	-	-	-	-	25
						<hr/>
Making in all who have to be taken care of	-	-	-	-	-	75
						<hr/>

All of which, together with the report throughout, is respectfully submitted.

I remain, with high regard, thy friend,

HENRY HARVEY,
Osage Sub Agent.

P. S.—The Osages have about 10,000 head of horses.

Colonel D. D. MITCHELL,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Missouri.

No. 10.

CATHOLIC MISSION, OSAGE NATION,
October 1, 1850.

SIR: As you have a deep interest in the promotion of the state and condition of the Indians, I feel happy to inform you, by this annual report, of the prosperous condition of both the male and female schools established for the benefit of the Osage youth.

The school for boys was opened on the 1st of May, 1847; the female school was commenced on the 10th of October of the same year.

I am confident, respected sir, that you, who have lived and conversed for many years among different Indian tribes, must candidly avow that our schools have already greatly benefited these Indians; and that there is good reason to hope that the character and manners of the Little and Great Osage nation will more visibly advance to civilization when our pupils shall be sufficiently educated to set good examples before their relations, drawing them to industry and regularity of life, both by example and advice. Your predecessor in office, Mr. John M. Richardson, says, in the annual report of 1848, page 163: "Without depreciating the children of other tribes, none equal those of the Osages in their capacity to receive an education. The buildings for their schools are not, and were not at the first, such as the missionaries had reason to expect. They were intended to accommodate only twenty boys and the same number of girls, and for an experiment at educating the Osage children."

This experiment proved to be successful, and consequently it became necessary to erect more ample buildings; and during the past and present years a suitable school house has been finished, at a cost of \$800. This main building is 50 feet long by 25 feet wide on the inside, and two full stories high; it is divided into two large school-rooms, and one common

sleeping-room; 63 boys might be accommodated if the dining room and kitchen of the first erected building were proportionably large.

For the better accommodation of the female school a meat-house, wash-house, and bake-house have been put up, costing \$118; also a well, at a cost of \$45. The plastering of three rooms in the female department having fallen from the ceiling, and both chimneys having tumbled in, an expense for repairs has been incurred of \$68. A paling fence of 50 panels, around both establishments, has been made, at a cost of \$50; and other necessary and permanent improvements have been made, so as to make the total amount of expenses about \$1,400.

I had commenced, in the middle of last year, to weather-board the two houses erected before our arrival in the nation; but having finished only one-third of one house, we dismissed the mechanics. The Osage saw-mill being out of repair, no plank could be had, except from the State of Missouri, at an extraordinary price; and not having the necessary funds, I was obliged to abandon this necessary improvement; intending, however, to finish the weather-boarding of both houses before winter. I have engaged 6,000 clapboards, 4 feet long by 6 inches wide, at 95 cents per 100.

The establishment is divided into a male and female department, and numbers 53 boys and 29 girls. The male department is conducted by three Catholic clergymen and seven lay-brothers: one of these, being a good scholar, is employed as assistant teacher; the others accompany the children during the hours of agricultural instruction, or such other employments as are calculated to instil into their minds industry and perseverance. As to the progress in learning made by these pupils: a considerable number can read well; they acquire a knowledge of penmanship more readily than the generality of white children; in the study of arithmetic, they exhibit a great deal of emulation. Sometimes the half-breeds, at other times the unmixed Osages, surpass one another. The other branches of common learning, such as geography and grammar, are also regularly taught.

With regard to the female department, nothing has been left undone to insure permanent success, being well aware that the progress of civilization and the welfare of a rising nation greatly depend upon the female members of society; for they are to instil the first principles of virtue and morals, the fountains of a future happy generation. The pupils are educated under the careful guidance of six religious ladies, who devote all their attention to the mental and moral improvement of their pupils; they are taught spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography; and besides, certain hours are set apart for knitting, sewing, marking, embroidering, &c. Between school hours, they are engaged in the occupations of domestic economy. As the building for this female school was intended to accommodate only 20 children, it follows that it is much too small.

A cultivated intellect and external accomplishments are not alone sufficient to insure that wide and elevated influence which we hope our children will one day exercise upon their relations; knowledge does not necessarily subdue or refine the passions and elevate the aims of its possessors. The fear of God, the anticipations of a future life, have a powerful tendency to arouse the young to exertion. Indeed, civilization, without true Christianity, is unattainable; the history of the world proves that Christianity is the grand civilizer of the human affections. The Osage

youth have added new proofs to the thousands that have preceded. Never could we have succeeded to subdue their passionate and stubborn dispositions, without giving them first the knowledge of a common Master and Father, who witnesses all our deeds, rewards virtue and punishes vice; who claims the service of all, and demands a strict observance of his holy commandments. Experience has taught that, when Osage children are well instructed in the knowledge of God, and the knowledge of the interior corruption of their own hearts, they are easily put forward on the way to trust in the grace of God, and to fight against the passions of the human heart. We have been successful in making them understand that these passions are the foul springs and sources of great evils,—that therefore they must be curbed in a youthful heart. It is by these motives that we have introduced many into the school of virtue, where, having learned Christian fortitude, they receive paternal corrections with filial affection; or, when the first motions of passion overcome their resolutions, the excitement is soon calmed by the helmet of faith and the remembrance of duty; this will account for the good feelings that exist between the pupils and conductors.

To bring the school to the present flourishing condition, we have been obliged to make liberal sacrifices—the terms (\$55 per annum) for educating these children not being sufficient to meet our expenses. Ever since the beginning of this year I meditated to make considerable other improvements; to this end, great industry was used during the whole of last spring to raise a large supply of corn, oats and potatoes; but the dry season has frustrated all our hopes. The same field from which we gathered last year 1,400 bushels of corn has only produced cornstalks, without one single bushel of corn; the potato crop has also totally failed. Being obliged to incur unforeseen expenses to the amount of \$1,000, and our own resources being all exhausted, we are forced to abandon the projects of improvement.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN SCHOENMAKERS.

Mr. HENRY HARVEY,
Osage Sub-Agent.

No. 11.

COUNCIL BLUFFS SUB-AGENCY,
October 20, 1850.

SIR: Owing to my detention in St. Louis, waiting for the funds allotted to my agency, I will be only able to submit a very brief report; and was it not for the customary regulations of the department requiring annual reports to reach it by the last of the present month, I would decline doing so until I could enter more into detail, and give a lengthier one than that which is now contemplated.

During the past year the Indians generally under my charge have enjoyed good health, and have had unusual good fortune in hunting, which, as none but the Ottos receive an annuity, has been the means of preventing many of them from starving. Game is fast receding from their hunting-grounds; and unless some new treaties are entered into, or some

of their lands purchased by the government, they must in a year or two subsist only on wild roots and the wild products of the prairie. Such a state of things is greatly to be pitied by our sympathizing government, and I trust, before that time arrives, that some provision will be made to foster and protect them from absolute starvation.

The vast extent of emigration which for the last two or three years has been pouring into and through the very midst of their corn-fields, their villages, and their hunting-grounds, must either be stopped, or some remuneration extended them, or else, I am inclined to believe that the great misery and want which they will come to, consequent upon such essential injuries to themselves and their country, will cause many of their *bad men* to commit acts of atrocity upon the persons of our emigrants, which can only be checked by constantly keeping an armed force along their trail. I truly hope that this matter, which presents itself in such a forcible light upon the consideration, and, I may add, the kind sympathies of our government, will not be passed over longer than the meeting of the next Congress. These three tribes—viz: Otoes, Omahas, and Pawnees—from their present deplorable situation, suffer and feel the effects of this vast emigration more than all the other tribes together; and should the provisions be made which have already been recommended by the late Secretary of the Interior, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and others, for compensating these Indians, I hope the above facts will be maturely considered.

Our smiths for the past year have done their usual variety of work: the only objection alleged by the Indians is, that the material used is not quite adequate to their wants—an objection which, were their own views consulted, would be very difficult to obviate.

Our Pawnee school, under the charge of Mr. Samuel Allis, owing to the dilapidated state of the buildings and the want of room for many children, has been but of little advantage the past year: as I have stated before, it should be either discontinued, or some new arrangements made. I am satisfied that, in its present situation, but little good can result from it.

Rev. E. McKinney, who is in charge of the Ottoe and Omaha mission, is effecting much good among those tribes. His school numbers constantly from thirty to forty children, and many seem to be making rapid strides in civilization and education. I have frequently recommended that the Pawnee children be turned over to Mr. McKinney until some provision is made that will prove of more advantage to their tribe. The number of children under the age of twelve years belonging to this tribe (Pawnees) would, I am confident, reach twelve hundred (1,200)—a most astonishing number, when it is recollected that their whole population will not amount to over four or five thousand. What a vast field is here open for the philanthropic and benevolent!

We are still greatly annoyed by the liquor-traders on the line; and as long as the Indian is suffered to remain so contiguous to the white, there is no remedy which the law can apply that will effectually break up the traffic carried on by these lawless desperadoes. It is not an uncommon occurrence to find one half of the articles manufactured by our smiths in the possession of these men, who have dealt out to the Indians instead a few pints or quarts of whiskey. There is no way of putting an end to this cursed trade, unless, when a liquor-trader is caught in the Indian

country, he can be punished upon the spot. When Indians are known violators of the intercourse law, the civil law but very seldom answers the end for which it was intended, and often has the effect of heightening instead of diminishing the evil. An example and a warning are to them of far greater advantage than all the threats that can be made. For all offences, of whatever nature, they should be punished upon their own ground, and where the eyes of their whole nation are upon them.

All experienced Indian men will concur with me, both as regards the white as well as Indian violators of law.

The reports of Rev. E. McKinney and Rev. Samuel Allis, owing to my absence and unusual detention in St. Louis, have not yet been made out. Should I have an opportunity of sending them so as to reach your office by the 1st November, I will avail myself of it.

I have the honor to remain, very truly, your obedient servant,
JOHN E. BARROW,
United States Indian Sub-Agent.

Col. D. D. MITCHELL,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

No. 12.

SIR: In pursuance of your instructions, I most respectfully submit to the department the following brief report of affairs in connexion with the Upper Missouri sub-agency during the past year:

The tribes included in this agency are the Sioux, Arickarees, Gros Ventres, Crows, Blackfeet, Assiniboines, and Crees; and, at the outset, it gives me much pleasure to state that, by the overruling of a benignant Providence, these tribes have enjoyed an uninterrupted measure of health scarcely known, and in a temporal point of view have been exceedingly prosperous. Buffalo and game of all sorts having been abundant, they have at once had an ample supply of meats for their own sustenance, and, in consequence of the increased competition arising from the establishment of a second trading company among them within the last few years, goods and provisions have been reduced to such a value as to render the sale of the products of the chase and the camp far more profitable than it ever has been heretofore.

The number of buffalo robes sold by these various tribes cannot be less than from 100,000 to 110,000, valued at \$3 a robe; also, peltries and furs to the value of at least \$50,000.

Notwithstanding an occasional feud, on account of which several whites have been killed, (at least five among the tribes under my supervision,) still, from my own careful observation, I have no hesitancy in saying that the intercourse between these Indians and the whites is remarkably friendly, and, indeed, I have never known the state of feeling between the traders and Indians to be so universally amicable as it has been during the past season. This, of course, must in a great measure be attributed to their unwonted prosperity in the hunt, the unusual degree of justice towards them on the part of the traders since the competition spoken of above, and not a little to the degree of unanimity displayed among the traders themselves. It would be very unreasonable to ex-

pect that the wild nature of the Indian would not at times get the ascendancy over a better disposition to peace, so novel as yet is their intercourse with civilized beings, and thus result in occasional loss of life. This must always be the case among these tribes until government shall see fit to establish among them the same means of regeneration that have already been put into requisition among various others with such marked success: I mean missions and schools. The natural traits of the Indian, it is well known to every one who has had any opportunities of observing them, are such as to render them peculiarly fitted to be wrought upon by those influences which are calculated to benefit them as a race. Kind-hearted, benevolent, and always grateful for counsel whenever proffered them by the whites, they show a disposition tractable beyond most nations shut out from the light of the gospel and the blessings incident to civilization; and I am firmly of opinion that the tribes among which I am familiar are by no means in so hopeless a condition that He who createth the light may not yet shine into their hearts, and give them the light of the knowledge of God.

This subject of missions and schools I cannot too strenuously urge upon the attention of Congress in seeking the welfare of the tribes under my charge. Against this, however, nothing operates so powerfully as the introduction of intoxicating liquors among them; for, although the laws of Congress prohibiting their sale are as rigidly enforced as, under the existing circumstances, they possibly can be, nevertheless the liquor traffic still continues to be the most formidable obstacle to any reform or improvement. The ungovernable passion for wealth prompts to a competition among liquor venders that is most destructive and ruinous to the poor Indian. Could this be stopped by the introduction of a small military force at Medicine Creek or at the old Rickaree village, there would be far brighter hopes of the elevation of these tribes both in character and condition.

From the method in which your agent is compelled at present to live, (viz: by travelling from one trading post to another, thus causing a great degree of jealousy among the different traders,) he is confident that it would be of great advantage to the agency to supply a house and council room—say at Fort Pierre—for his accommodation, and would respectfully suggest an appropriation for that purpose. He would also remind Congress of the entire inadequacy of the amount of funds allowed for interpreters to accomplish the numerous requisitions which government impose upon him.

And in conclusion, he feels that, for the good of the tribes among which he labors, he cannot too zealously urge upon the consideration of government the great advantage that would be derived from creating a full agency in place of the present sub-agency, with its insufficiency of means to promote the best welfare of the tribes under its supervision.

In submitting the above for your acceptance, I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

WM. S. HATTON,
Indian Sub-Agent.

To Colonel D. D. MITCHELL,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

No. 13.

MINNESOTA SUPERINTENDENCY,
St Paul, October 21, 1850.

SIR: In accordance with the regulations of the department, I have the honor to submit the following as the second annual report of this superintendency.

A remarkable unity of character is impressed upon the three communities of aborigines in charge of this office, visible in their institutions, their ideas, and manners, and characteristic ever of barbarians, among whom exist only simple personal relations, and not the mixed relations of persons and property; yet, notwithstanding the general resemblance they bear to one another, as well as to the other cognate branches of the great aboriginal stock, each tribe presents distinctive features for consideration, marked diversities in their social development, and essential differences in their relations with government.

The Dacotahs, from their numbers, the comparative simplicity of their character, and the propinquity of their lands to the white settlements of the Territory, receive from me frequent adjustment of questions, which, in case of a remote tribe, would rest peculiarly and exclusively with the agent. The bands bordering upon the Mississippi come often in contact with the white race, are to a certain degree within the sphere of their influence, and at this day their picturesque dances, fantastically moving in cadence to savage melodies, and accompanied with a rhythmic repetition of simple and not unmusical sounds, constitute a common spectacle in our villages.

The Winnebagoes, subjected to repeated banishment by government from lands which they had been accustomed to esteem their own, improvident in the receipt of princely annuities, moody and turbulent under the debasing appliances of an inquisitive trade and persevering cupidity to which, in years past, they have been exposed, have been the occasion of infinite mischief and the source of much vexation, and are sad witnesses of the truth of an abstract proposition, importing deep reproach, that the neighborhood of a white population degrades the Indian and depresses his condition, and that the intercourse of the white man imparts to the aborigines not the virtues of the former, but vices, which, with the latter, seem fated to acquire deadlier and more destructive energies. In consequence of the large annuities in money and goods paid this tribe, their business affairs assume a complex character; and as their national treasury is ample and their depredations upon the property of whites frequent, each year witnesses no inconsiderable drain upon their revenues for the satisfaction of claimants who have suffered loss at their hands.

The Chippewas, or, as some write, the Ojibwas, are generally reputed to be the most chivalric of their race, and are a nation of whose dialects, mythology, legends, and customs, we have the fullest accounts.

The Menomonic (Wild Rice) Indians have not yet removed to their lands in this Territory, although the term of their stay in Wisconsin, under the treaty of 1846, expired during the present month. Under charge of Colonel Bruce, their agent, and Mr. Childs, a party of the chiefs of this people, in the months of June and July last, made an exploration of the country provided for them by treaty, situate north of Crow Wing river; and, after a most minute examination, the gentlemen

who accompanied the delegation, upon their return, expressed to me in glowing terms their favorable opinion of the country, and firm conviction that, in the lakes, the rivers, the prairies, and the forests of that region, means of subsistence sufficient for the wants of the tribe could easily be found.

The Stockbridge Indians during the present autumn have deputed a delegation to select a location within this Territory for the feeble remnant of that once powerful tribe; but, as the two latter bodies of Indians do not at present fall within the jurisdiction of this superintendency, this report will merely aim at a succinct recapitulation of events during the past year affecting the other three named tribes; and first in order will be submitted a brief retrospective view of the affairs of the Sioux, or Dacotah Indians. The seven bands of the Medewakant'wan Sioux—the only branch of the great Dacotah family with whom we have formed treaty stipulations—are scattered over a broad tract of country extending from the village of Shockapee, twenty-five miles up the St. Peter's river, to the village of Wabashaw, one hundred miles below its mouth, on the Mississippi.

From the large area of country thus occupied, arises an inherent obstacle to that personal attention on the part of the sub agent, the superintendent of agriculture, and the physician, which this people ought to receive. For the same reason, to derive reasonable and legitimate results from educational efforts among these bands, it is necessary that they should be confined to a more contracted area, so that a manual-labor school—and their funds will admit of the establishment of but one—may be free and accessible to all. Since the treaty of 1837, the Sioux have ever been averse to the disposition of five thousand dollars for schools, as provided by that treaty. In my last annual report I dwelt at length upon this subject, and to the suggestions therein urged I again invite the consideration of the department. From the notorious incapacity of Indians to act advisedly for themselves in such matters, it is to be regretted that government has not seen fit, without consultation with them, to direct such a disposition of this fund as would best improve their condition. Without wishing to advocate any proposition which would divest them unjustly of the smallest interest to which they are entitled, the fact is unquestionable, that a large proportion of every northern tribe of Indians would gladly divert every dollar from educational to other purposes.

Of the eminent superiority of manual-labor over other schools, to stimulate habits of industry and meliorate their modes of life, it is unnecessary to speak. The total failure, the utter fruitlessness of other systems, has been repeatedly demonstrated. Under their operation, year after year, sanguine anticipations have been formed, to be succeeded by disappointment and despondency. Manual-labor instruction, by dispelling the stigma of disgrace which the Indian attaches to labor, and exhibiting to him the practical triumphs of industry and culture, in agriculture and the mechanic arts, alone promises adequate return. The Indian is a moral phenomenon, an anomaly among the races of man—he may win the diploma of a University, he may be subjected to the severe training and stern ordeal of schools, he may become a free and accepted member of the republic of letters, but not then are his pristine habits essentially modified, or his material condition radically changed. It is due to truth that this admission should be made, for upon this subject the world has had enough

of idle romancing. "Harvard College," says Mr. Bancroft, "enrols the name of an Algonquin youth among her pupils; but the college parchment could not close the gulf between the Indian character and the Anglo-American. The copper-colored men are characterized by a moral inflexibility, a rigidity of attachment to their hereditary customs and manners. The birds and the brooks, as they chime forth their unwearied canticles, chime them ever to the same ancient melodies; and the Indian child, as it grows up, displays a propensity to the habits of its ancestors."

Of the state of moral and religious culture among the Dacotahs, I think I can notice a slight improvement from their condition a year since. The example of their pious and devoted missionaries has greatly promoted the *temporal* welfare of these Indians, though it would be folly to affirm that adequate success has accompanied their labors, or merited fruition crowned their hopes. Apparent conversions to Christianity may not be uncommon, yet are they generally illusory and transitory. Shadowy and poetical creeds, such as where "in the flashes of the northern lights men believed they saw the dance of the dead," still hold sway with savage breasts. Though not prone to the dark rites of superstition, and perhaps rather skeptical than otherwise of the rhapsodies and incantations of the soothsayer and juggler, still to the auguries of his medicine man, prophet of marvels and mysteries, the untutored Dacotah inclines, rather than to the pure precepts and elevating instructions of the followers of the "Prince of Peace."

The facility and frequency with which the Sioux pass in their canoes to the east side of the Mississippi, where places for vending liquor have so much increased within twelve months, furnishes occasion for deep solicitude, and presents a practical evil for the remedy of the department. Ardent spirits have been the bane of the race, and though the healthy public sentiment of this community indignantly reprobates that abominable traffic, which more perhaps than any other agency has contributed to the declension and deterioration of the Indian, still in all communities will be found sordid wretches sufficiently depraved to attempt for filthy lucre to elude the laws which prohibit their sale. I am happy to state, that in aid of the judicious and wholesome statutes of the United States upon this subject, the legislature of the Territory of Minnesota have passed stringent penal enactments for the suppression of this corrupting traffic.

Owing to the high waters in all our northern rivers, the corn crop of the Sioux, for the present year, has been to a great extent cut off; but the consent of the department to the diversion from the accumulated farm-fund of five thousand dollars, to be expended for provisions, will relieve them from the distress which, otherwise, the inundation of their fields would have occasioned.

The high stage of water during the past season in the St. Peter's, or Minnesota river, has led to frequent explorations of its valley—truly the garden of the Northwest—and satisfactory test has been had of safe and convenient navigation for a comfortable class of steamboats for 200 miles from its confluence with the Mississippi. In view of the contemplated treaty with the Sioux, the question of acquisition by the government of the United States of a portion of this country must soon pass *sub judice*; opening, by the extinction of the Indian title, a new theatre for the great drama of western civilization.

Urgent reasons for a purchase may be found in the advance of our cul-

tivated border, in the civilization which is pressing upon and impending over this valley, in maxims of natural law, from which civilized man deduces the duty of reclaiming and cultivating the earth, as well as in a jealous regard for the best interests of the Indian, and a tender caution for his welfare. Should the Sioux acquiesce in some proper conventional arrangement for a cession of their possessory interest, as no pillars of Hercules stay the flowing tide of Anglo-American inundation, it may fairly be presumed that the luxuriant solitudes, reposing in the valley of the St. Peter's, which have slumbered unproductive since the creation, will soon be gained to the dominion of the plough and the sickle, and smiling villages rise, like an exhalation, by its shores.

In July last I had an interesting interview with a numerous party of Yankton, (of the North, or plains,) from the other side of the great *Coteau*—the first of that distant and warlike band who have ever visited St. Paul. The ostensible object of their journey was to lay claim to the *Wahpacoota* country, which they had understood was to be sold to the United States. The country that these people inhabit is almost one entire plain, uncovered with timber; it is extremely level, the soil fertile, and generally well watered. Lewis & Clarke, in the report of their expedition, describe this band as "roving from the heads of the river St. Peter's and Red river of the Missouri, about the *Great Bend*." They estimate the number of their lodges at eighty, warriors five hundred, and population sixteen hundred.

In June, 1849, a party of sixteen *Wahpacoota* Sioux, led by their young chief, were murdered while occupied in hunting upon their own lands. Since the occurrence, I have made every effort to obtain correct information as to the perpetrators of the outrage. From Brevet Major Woods, recently detailed to remove the Sacs and Foxes from Iowa—who, at my request, gave the subject some attention—I have received information which leads me to think that the offenders belonged to that tribe who have long been known as an ancient enemy of the Sioux. In a letter, dated the 23d of September last, I communicated to the department the intelligence in my possession; and, for reasons at that time stated, I here take occasion to renew the request then preferred, that the sum of sixteen thousand dollars be retained from the Sac and Fox annuities, to be distributed among the *Wahpacootas*, to whom, as they are miserably poor, and receive no annuities from government, the tribute would be very opportune.

With other tribes the intercourse of the Sioux during the past year has been marked by several open demonstrations of hostility. There seems to have existed a hereditary warfare between them and the Chipewas. French traders as early as 1687 make mention of it; and it was a subject of comment and observation two centuries ago, by the earlier historians and travellers. Since that period, notwithstanding the efforts of Jesuit and Protestant missionaries to soothe and reform the ferocious feelings and habits of the savage by the mild charities of religion, the relations between these tribes have remained unchanged. The mission houses established among them, monuments of the zeal and devotion of pious and self-sacrificing men, are unfortunately monuments also of unrequited and unproductive efforts. Even the wholesome restraint exercised by government over their conduct has failed to appease their ancient hate, or perceptibly modify their stationary and unbending habits. Accord-

ingly, on the second day of April last, the Sioux embellished their history by the slaughter of fourteen Chippewas, upon Apple river, a stream which empties its waters not far from the head of Lake St. Croix, on the Wisconsin side. Although the attack was conformable to that system of ethics which teaches the Indian that injuries are redressed by revenge, and that might is the security of right, so unprovoked an aggression could not pass unnoticed, and I demanded of the chiefs of the bands implicated in the barbarity the tradition of the leaders into charge of the commanding officer at Fort Snelling. After much delay and equivocation this was done, and the prominent participants in the affair were confined in the guard-house of the fort. Meantime word was sent to advise the Chippewas that I had taken the matter into hand, and to direct them to desist from revenge; but ere the messengers charged with the office had threaded the wilderness of plain and forest to the distant Ojibway lodges, the Sioux were struck upon by a scalping party, almost within reach of the guns of Fort Snelling. Under the circumstances which surrounded this unseasonable attack, I thought it but just to enlarge the Indians who were imprisoned, in order that they might be able, if occasion should rise, to protect their families. Shortly information reached me, from reliable sources, that the Pillagers, a warlike branch of the great Chippewa family, were mustering for a grand descent upon the St. Peter's, to reap a harvest of death in the valleys of their enemies. To add to the perplexing considerations involved in the relations between these tribes, the neglect of the United States to enforce the terms of a treaty concluded at Fort Snelling in 1843, by which their old hatred had been partially smothered, had greatly exasperated both sides, and seriously impaired the influence of government officers. By acts of its agents government had become a *quasi* party to this treaty, and the failure on its side to discharge the obligations it had voluntarily assumed, furnished to the Indians plausible pretext for the renewal of hostile collisions. Under these unpropitious auspices, the only alternative presented was a convocation of the two tribes, with a view either to open negotiations *de novo*, or by settlement of past differences to effect a recognition in full of the treaty of 1843.

Accordingly the hostile parties were assembled in conference at Fort Snelling, in June last, some seventy envoys representing the Chippewas, and yet a larger number the Sioux. The deliberations of these "wild republicans of the wilderness" were characterized by a decorum and propriety worthy of initiation by more august assemblages. The discourse of their orators was distinguished by freedom from acerbity, fluent eloquence, and sententious perspicuity, and their diction, never parsimonious of ornament, glowed with imagery. By the side of the civil and military officers of government who were present upon the occasion, and the groups of spectators who had been attracted by the novelty of the scene, the painted war chiefs, gaily decorated with feathers and medals, exhibited all the glare of a "pictured and dramatic contrast."

The details of the council have already been submitted to the department, and further recital is unnecessary. I desire, however, in this connexion to express my grateful appreciation of the valuable services and graceful hospitality of Capt. J. Monroe, at the time in command of Fort Snelling, and also of the efficient assistance rendered by Capt. J. B. S. Todd, commanding officer at Fort Gaines, Mr. Warren, interpreter, and other gentlemen, in inducing the Chippewas to attend the conference.

Exasperated as were these hostile tribes, and apprehensive as were their traders and half-breed relatives that a sanguinary war menaced the frontier, it affords me lively gratification to be able to say that, since the arrangement at that time made, not a solitary instance has arisen of a breach of the terms of the treaty of 1843 by any of the bands, either Sioux or Chippewa, parties to the council in June, 1850. The approval by the Indian Bureau of the action of that council has been communicated to each tribe, and its final decision, upon careful examination of the statements of both parties, that reparation was due the Chippewas. The sum of money remitted for this purpose has been expended in the purchase of provisions, clothing, presents, &c, which, in shape of atoning presents, have been distributed with cautious care, so that the relatives of the Chippewas who have been murdered in these affrays have received a larger than average share.

As the general right of control, on the part of the United States, in these matters, should be subject to no artificial rules of construction, which would defeat the wholesome guardianship exercised by government over the Indian, I have announced to the Pillagers, and to the *Wahpeton* and *Siseton* Sioux, that they would be held amenable to the terms of the treaty, though not parties to it, nor present at the council. In case these bands should exhibit indisposition to accede to the stipulations therein contained, it would indisputably be the duty of government to impose such terms as should seem proper, and, by duress or otherwise, compel their observance. Nor can fanciful pretensions, or judicial theories, concerning the *sovereignty* of Indian tribes, be objected to the practical application of this doctrine. Provisions exist disabling Indians from selling clothing, farming or cooking utensils, arms, horses, &c. In the trade and intercourse laws, disabilities are imposed and securities are provided, evincing the judgment of Congress that over such matters they possessed jurisdiction, and that it was expedient to exercise it; and in order to suppress the barbarous atrocities of savage warfare, should the imposition of even rigorous terms appear to conflict with the supposititious independence of the Indian, but another of the anomalies is presented, of which the general subject of the relative rights and duties of a civilized and barbarous people is so fruitful.

As a political community the Dacotahs live almost without law. Slight, indeed, among all the tribes of the Northwest is the influence of their chiefs; the braves, who constitute a sort of aristocratic estate, keep them in awe, and, through the depression of fear, the chiefs hesitate in council to express an independent opinion. For this reason, upon the occasion of transacting important business, they always insist upon the presence of a large number of their people. Should they sign a treaty, or do any other act binding upon their tribe, contrary to popular approbation, it is very probable that their lives would be the forfeit. At least, apprehension of such issue holds them in check.

As property is held in common, its rights are but slightly respected; and upon the lightest provocation an Indian will shoot the horse or other domestic animal of an enemy, and among them exists neither law nor usage to compel restitution. They have no courts, no officers, no statutes, no debts to collect, no damages to pay. The few vegetable productions raised by the industry of their women are appropriated by the less thrifty, whenever want or caprice dictates. As a consequence of this

communism, motive to industry, incitement to accumulation, desire for private property, is weak; and in this utter nakedness of rights and remedies lies the grand defect in the institutions, and the principal impediment to the civilization, of the red man.

Congress should extend over the aboriginal population a code of laws, mild and simple in character, to be enforced by the respective agents of the different tribes. The experiment has already been made of extending over them, to a certain extent, the action of criminal laws; but to elevate their social and political condition, government, in the exercise of paternal authority, should fashion a civil code, accommodated to their actual situation, elementary in its nature, securing plain rights, and providing positive remedies.

The Winnebagoes, during the past year, have shown a restless and mischievous disposition, which has added much to the embarrassments attending upon the business of this office. Questions of expediency and authority, as well as of finance and morals, have been implicated in their relations.

A segment of the tribe, after their nominal removal in 1848, remained in Wisconsin and Iowa, constituting a nucleus of attraction to those who were actually colonized upon the lands appropriated for them within this superintendency. Many of the latter, in spite of the vigilance of the officers of the department, and of the military stationed at the different posts in the Territory, returned to the vicinity of their old hunting-grounds; from whence, from representations made by the executive and people of Wisconsin, government, in the spring of 1850, felt constrained to enter into contract for their removal. Impressed at the time with the conviction that the representations of the people of Wisconsin, as to the inconvenience resulting from the presence of these Indians, were highly exaggerated, nothing that has since transpired has tended to destroy or affect this conviction. The *Winnebagoes*, unless inflamed by liquor, are rarely rude to the whites, and, unless goaded by want, seldom trespass upon the property of others. Be this, however, as it may, it is notorious among those who come most often in contact with them that this people have remained in Wisconsin mainly through solicitations of citizens of that State, and that others, whom such solicitations would not be apt to influence, have returned because barriers equally strong do not there oppose the gratification of their inordinate attachment to ardent spirits. Let Wisconsin legislation inhibit vending or giving Indians ardent spirits within State limits, and let rigorous police enforce such legislation, and but trivial apprehensions need be entertained of annoyance from the *Winnebagoes*.

The recent arrival at Fort Snelling of a company of dragoons, so long wanted, will greatly assist in intercepting the migration southward of this discontented people. Though it must be admitted that, in a sparsely settled country, with paths and by-ways known only to the Indian, leading through treacherous morass and tangled wilderness which no soldiery can penetrate, difficulties will be found, inherent and almost insurmountable, to confining them to their country, if disposed to wander.

The Mississippi bands would unquestionably expatriate themselves, if forced to retire from the river to the vicinity of the agency; and the only alternative left is to open farms, license trading houses, &c., in their present locality, though in fearful proximity to the haunts of the whiskey trader. To the healthy moral tone which shall ensue from an augment-

ing population on the east side of the river, we must look for the expulsion of this detestable class of traders, and the suppression of a ruinous traffic, which, in case of the Indian, infallibly destroys the effect of individual character.

In a communication addressed to the department of date April 16, 1850, I suggested the propriety of Congress extending the operation of the trade and intercourse laws over public lands contiguous to Indian territory which have not become subject to private entry. As individuals residing upon these lands are technically trespassers, and as the fee is in government, this kind of jurisdiction could with great propriety and utility be exercised. It is while in the transition state, after the extinction of the aboriginal title, and prior to the settlement of a white population sufficiently restrained by moral principle, that territory thus situated, without law, is made the theatre of Indian whiskey trade. A jurisdiction of this nature is essential to the safety of the Indian, and its extent must be determined by those who are called to exercise it. Of the authority of Congress so to legislate, no doubts can exist. The right reposes upon no metaphysical figment; and the only doubt is, how far expediency and discretion require that such jurisdiction should be exercised.

The Winnebago school, which has long been under the superintendence of Rev. D. Lowry, has been suspended since June last, at which time that gentleman resigned his post. As soon as information of his withdrawal reached me, I notified your office, and urged the opportunity as propitious for introducing manual labor schools, agreeably to the design long entertained by the department. In daily expectation of receiving instructions upon this subject, I have, up to this time, deferred directing the reopening of the school. I do not deem it essential that the children should be boarded at these schools, but rather concur with the views advanced by agent Fletcher in this connexion.

The Chippewas number within the limits of the United States about eight thousand souls. Of this number, four hundred, at the present time, reside in the State of Michigan, three thousand in Wisconsin, and the remaining four thousand five hundred in the Territory of Minnesota. As those living in Michigan and Wisconsin, on lands ceded to government, will soon fall under the jurisdiction of this superintendency, having been ordered to remove to the country appropriated for them within this Territory, I have thought proper to embrace them in a brief sketch of the history, numbers, villages, and modes of livelihood of the different divisions of the tribe. For much of my information upon this subject, I am indebted to the researches of Mr. W. W. Warren, an educated Ojibway half-breed.

Five thousand Chippewas are equal parties to, and receive annuities under, the treaties of St. Peter's in 1837, and of La Pointe in 1842. Of all treaties from time to time entered into by the several bands of this tribe, these two are in every respect the most important. In these treaties, they ceded to the United States all their possessions in Wisconsin and Michigan, comprising the rich mineral district which extends along the south coast of Lake Superior, and the valuable pineries which skirt Black, Chippewa, St. Croix, Rum, and Wisconsin rivers, and tributaries. For this large cession they receive annually, for the respective periods of twenty and twenty-five years, the sum of sixty-four thousand dollars, in goods, money, &c. The parties to these treaties, with the exception of the Mississippi division, numbering some eleven hundred, still reside

upon the lands they have ceded. By treaty provisions, the term of their stay was left optional with the President; and not till last spring was a mandate for their removal given by the Chief Magistrate of the country.

Beside the body of five thousand who receive annuities under treaties at St. Peter's, La Pointe, and Fond du Lac, a division of one thousand, known as the Pillager Chippewas, residing in Minnesota, receive a stated amount of goods under the treaty of Leech lake in 1847, wherein they sold the lands which have been set apart for the Menomonies. The remaining body of two thousand residing in this Territory receive neither annuities nor presents.

The Chippewas are a well-marked type and leading tribe of the Algonquin stock. They call themselves *Ojibwaig*—the plural of *Ojibway*, from *Ojibwah*, “puckered” or “drawn up.” According to an eminent writer, this name “denotes a peculiarity in their voice or manner of utterance.” But, as there is no discernible “pucker” in their voice, or mode of speaking their really musical language, a more natural genesis of the word could probably be derived from a circumstance in their past history. Upwards of two centuries ago, they were driven by the Iroquois or Six Nations of New York into the straits of Mackinaw, where Lakes Huron, Michigan, and Superior are “puckered” into a small channel, or narrow compass. Prior to this event, there is nothing in their traditions, or in the writings of early travellers, to indicate that they were known by the name of *Ojibwaig*. When interrogated upon the subject, some of their old men affirm that they are named after the *Ojibwoy* moccasin, a peculiarly-made article, “puckered into a seam the whole length of the foot.”

The history of this tribe, prior to eight generations ago, is collected entirely from oral traditions, which savor of the marvellous or supernatural, and from which but vague and unsatisfactory deductions can be drawn. From these traditions, however, we learn that they once were familiar with the salt ocean, that they lived on a large river, again on a great lake, where they exterminated a tribe they call the *Meendua*, and last in a large centre town on an island in the bay of *Shag-uh-waum-ik-ong*, on Lake Superior, or *Kecche Gumme*. The old men of the tribe agree in saying that to this spot their ancestors first came, about eight generations or two hundred and forty years ago, estimating an Indian generation at thirty years. They were driven from the east by powerful tribes, whom they denominate *Nodswaig*, meaning “adders.” These were the Iroquois or Six Nations of New York and Canada, who, coming first in contact with whites, became first armed with their deadly weapons, giving them great advantage over more western and remote tribes, who still wielded the primitive weapon of bow and arrow. Driven westwardly upon Lake Superior, the Ojibwas came in collision with the *Ab-boin-ee* Sioux, or “Roasters,” and the *O-dug-aumeeg*, “Opposite-side people,” or Foxes. These two tribes became their inveterate enemies, and for a long time hemmed them in upon the island of La Pointe, where they subsisted mainly by fishing and agriculture. From this period, they relate their own history with considerable accuracy. Their village and cultivated grounds occupied a space upon the island about three miles long and two broad. Here they cherished a perpetual fire, as a symbol of their nationality, and in their civil polity maintained a certain system—very much confused and tinged, however, with their religious and medicinal beliefs. The *A-auh-wauh* or Loon totem family constituted the royal line; and the

Mukwah or Bear family led them to war, and protected them from the inroads of their enemies. The rites of *Me da we-win*, or their mode of worshipping the Great Spirit and the lesser spirits which fill earth, sky, and waters, were in those days practised in their purest and most original form. Upon the island was erected a large wigwam, called the *Me-da-we gaun*, in which the holier rites of their religion were practised. The building, though probably rude in structure and perishable in materials, was yet the temple of a powerful tribe, and, in their religious phraseology, the island is still known by the name of *Me-da-we-gaun*.

The Ojibwas were for a time so harassed by the Sioux and Foxes that they were not even safe from attack upon the island of La Pointe, though situate some miles from the main shore of the lake. Twice their enemies found opportunity to land among them in the night and carry off prisoners and scalps. It was not until the earlier French traders had supplied them in a measure with fire arms that they became formidable to their enemies. From this era, now about two centuries ago, can be dated the disposal of the Chippewas from their island home, and the expansion of their bands along the shore of the lake, and over the country in the interior. In a severe engagement on Point *Shag-ah-waum-ik ong*, they killed over one hundred Sioux warriors; and, in a lake fight near the mouth of Montreal river, they killed and drowned upwards of three hundred Foxes, who had intruded upon their island in the night and taken prisoners. In a concentrated effort, they destroyed, with one war party, six villages of Foxes, scattered along the Chippewa river. About eighty years ago, the Foxes made their last stand against them at the Falls of St. Croix. The Chippewas, led by their war chief *Waub-o-jeeg*, were victorious, and from that time the Foxes finally retired from the country. Gaining possession of the head-waters of the Mississippi, it became an easy matter for the Chippewas to descend in their enemies' country. Within two centuries they have occupied by conquest a tract of country extending west from Lake Superior to the Mississippi, and south from Red river of the North and Selkirk's settlement to Lake Michigan. Diverted by the tempting resources and lured by the varied seductions of so extended a region, they have become separated into several divisions, of which a brief sketch will here be given.

Lake Superior Chippewas.—This body number about thirteen hundred, and are known as the *Ke-che-gumme-win-in-e-wug*, or Great lake men. The principal villages are Auce, *Keweenaw*, Ontonagon, La Pointe, Fond du Lac, and Grand Portage, on the lake shore. They subsist mainly on the excellent fish with which the lake abounds. Since 1842 they have received the services of four blacksmiths, three farmers, and two carpenters—embracing, with the exception of one blacksmith and one farmer, all the laborers allowed the entire quota of bands who were parties to the treaties of 1837 and 1842. In consequence of this help, among this division, flattering progress has been made.

The Auce band, numbering three hundred, have become comparatively civilized. They dwell in houses, assume the costume of the whites, and are essentially agriculturists. Their chief and some of the principal men have been admitted to the rights of citizenship in the State of Michigan.

The La Pointe band number about four hundred. Among them are many who are partially civilized, and, beside dwelling in houses and owning cattle, are devout members either of Catholic or Protestant churches.

Among the elder chiefs and head-men, however, are others still attached to primitive customs. The religion of their fathers is engraved upon the hearts of these, and guides their daily habits of life. The improvement of this band for the past ten years has been gradual and sure. They own a large farm on Bad river, from which they raise corn and potatoes sufficient for their own consumption, and not unfrequently a surplus for sale. They also manufacture large quantities of maple sugar, which they sell to their traders, and catch and salt fish, for which they find a ready market.

The Fond du Lac band, who reside upon unceded lands in Minnesota, number about four hundred. They are much less advanced in the arts of civilization than the two bands last mentioned, and depend for subsistence upon the scanty and precarious supplies furnished by the chase. One cause of this is the absence of good soil in the vicinity of their present location.

The Ontonagon and Grand Portage bands number a little over one hundred each.

These lake-shore Chippewas have an inexhaustible resource in the fish which plentifully abound in the waters of the lake. They are naturally well disposed towards the whites, docile, and harmless. Owing to their distance from the Sioux, they have not, for the past half century, joined the war parties of their more western brethren.

Wisconsin and Chippewa river division.—This fragment of the tribe number about eighteen hundred, and are known as the *Be ton-aulk-an-ub-yig*, or "Those that live along the woods." Their principal villages are at Lac du Flambeau, Vieux Desert, Pelican lake, Lac Contereville, Pukwaawun, Lac Shatae, and *Mon-o nimik-au* lake—all in the State of Wisconsin, except Vieux Desert, which lies in Michigan. Most of these villages are located upon lakes which form the heads of the Wisconsin and Chippewa rivers. These lakes are remote from the white settlements on Lake Superior and the Mississippi, and are surrounded by dense and trackless forests and swamps. At these villages a few families plant potatoes and corn, but not enough for consumption during the winter. The wild rice which abounds in the vicinity forms the main staple of subsistence. Though numerically composing almost a moiety of the bands parties to the treaties at St. Peter's and La Pointe, they have received little, if any, aid from the different funds provided by government. This neglect has probably arisen from their remoteness from the agency at La Pointe. Seldom do over one-third of this people appear to draw the annuities to which they are entitled for the sale of every inch of their extensive territory. After their rice is gathered in the fall, they descend the Wisconsin, *Mancdouish*, and Chippewa rivers, to hunt the deer and large game which there abound. During the entire winter they sojourn in this region, coming in contact with the white population attracted thither by the pineries. Enticed among the lumbermen by attachment to ardent spirits, many families, especially on the Wisconsin, remain the year round. These have become demoralized and miserable, forming a perfect nuisance to the whites, who are fast occupying the country.

The bands residing upon the Chippewa and its tributaries are less degenerate and more manly. As far back as their oldest men can remember, they have warred with the Sioux. Forming, with the St. Croix, Mississippi, and Pillager divisions, the vanguard of their nation in its westward advance, they have stood the brunt of war, and been fearfully

mischievous in these wretched border frays. With this people no serious difficulty has yet occurred. They are peaceably disposed to the whites, but much attached to the country they have sold.

The Wisconsin Chippewas are physically larger and stronger than their more northern brethren.

The St. Croix division.—This portion of the tribe reside upon the St. Croix river, on lands, lying partly in Wisconsin and partly in Minnesota, ceded in 1837 by the treaty of St. Peter's. They number about eight hundred, and have their villages at Upper St. Croix lake, *Num a quag-um*, *Po ka go-mon*, Yellow, and Rice lakes, and on Snake river. They are known among the tribe as the *Mun o-min ik a she-ug*, or "Rice Makers." The country they occupy abounds in wild rice, and formerly these bands were noted for gathering large quantities of it. Since the sale of their country, they have become the most miserable and degenerate of their tribe. Living altogether among the pineries, which of late years have been so much resorted to by the whites, their deterioration, through the agency of intoxicating drinks, has been rapid, and almost without parallel. Murders among themselves have become of frequent occurrence; and quarrels arising in drunken brawls have caused feuds between families which have grown so serious that small war parties have been fitted out against one another. During the past few years, a number of whites have also been murdered, and a most aggravating case of homicide occurred the past summer.

This state of things calls for prompt action from government. Living but a short distance from their own lands about Mille Lac, they should, without delay, be removed thither; though, after removal, it would probably require a force to keep them within bounds. The residue of the tribe labor under the belief that the bad conduct of the "Rice Makers" has accelerated the mandate of the President for their removal from the ceded lands; hence the St. Croix bands are obnoxious to their brethren, and no measure, even of forcible removal, would excite for them sympathy. For their own good, as well as for the safety of the white population who are exposed to their depredations, their immediate removal should be enforced. To carry this object into effect, it will be necessary to settle their bloody family feuds. At present, they fear one another much more than they fear any common enemy, and they will not coalesce until their implacable resentments are appeased. It is proper to mention, the St. Croix lake band, numbering over one hundred, have kept aloof from the white settlements, fearing to be implicated in the acts of their brethren, and have even gradually removed towards Lake Superior. The chief of the Snake river band, *Nodin*, and a principal man, *Mun-o-ninik ash an*, have migrated this summer to Mille Lac, and located within their own lines, and are inducing as many as possible of their bands to follow their example.

Mississippi Chippewas.—These bands are known as the *Kc che se be-win o-wing*, or "Great river men." They dwell in Minnesota, on lands of which they still hold the possessory interest. Their numbers amount to eleven hundred; and their principal villages are at Sandy lake, Mille Lac, Rabbit river, and Gull lake. According to accounts of their old men, little over a century has elapsed since a large party of Chippewa warriors, led by their war chief *Bi-ans-wah*, sallied from the shores of Lake Superior, and conquered a Sioux village, at that period, located at Sandy lake.

Here they made a stand; and at this lake for many years flourished their metropolitan village. From this spot marched the war parties which drove the Sioux from Leech, Winnepeg, Red, and the Mille lakes. Their hostile incursions even extended to the Minnesota river, and their hunts to Red river on the west, and Rum river on the south. Throughout this entire region, death has held its carnival, and the bones of Sioux and Chippewa alike whiten its soil. Twice within a century have the Mississippi Chippewas been nearly exterminated by their enemies, but, receiving accessions from Lake Superior, they have held their footing tenacious to the last. Their own country becoming devoid of game, necessity has been the goad which has impelled them still westward, and they now roam over the whole country north and east of the St. Peter's. The feud between them and the Sioux has continued with brief intervals to the present time, and has infused into them a warlike spirit. The eagle plume, denoting the death of an enemy in battle, is with them the highest badge of distinction.

After the treaty at St. Peter's, in 1837, the Mississippi Chippewas received their first payment of annuities at Lake St. Croix. But on their return, through the folly of the Pillagers, they incurred the displeasure of the Sioux, who fell upon them in force, at night, and massacred over a hundred, mostly women and children. The Mille Lac band were almost cut off to a man. This occurrence changed the locality of their payment to La Pointe, and to receive their annuities the members of this division were yearly obliged to traverse hundreds of miles. The sub-agency, also, which had been located at Crow Wing, was from this time discontinued, and, as a natural sequence, the vigilant supervision of government over them much deranged.

In this state they continued up to the convention at *Fond du Lac* in 1847, wherein they sold to the United States the country at present occupied by the Winnebagoes. They also in this treaty stipulated for an agent to reside among them, and for the payment of their share of annuities upon the Mississippi. A farmer and blacksmith have been allowed them, and for two years back they have of their own accord reserved from their annuities one thousand dollars *per annum* for an agricultural fund. A farm last year was located at Gull lake, in a tract covered with a heavy growth of maple timber; and the lower bands of this division, who had been accustomed to rove over ceded territory and Sioux lands, have been induced to move to Gull lake, and commence farming. They have become convinced of the necessity of agriculture; and many families, who heretofore had never planted a potato or a grain of corn, have now little patches of cultivated ground, from which they raise almost enough for their winter support. During planting time last spring, they procured liquor from ceded lands below Fort Gaines; and, on account of a sudden inroad of the Sioux, which resulted in the death of a favorite son of one of their chiefs, the war fever raged fiercely, causing them to neglect farming operations. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, over one thousand bushels of potatoes have been raised this season at Gull lake, and a respectable quantity of corn, turnips, and pumpkins. There are five chiefs residing here with their bands. The advantages attached to the location are not sufficient to accommodate them all, and another farm should be opened in the spring either on Long or White Fish lake.

The Mille Lac band number about three hundred. Being removed

forty or fifty miles from any white settlement, and possessing a lake abounding in fish and wild rice, and bordered by extensive maple groves, they live amid greater plenty than any of their surrounding brethren.

The Rabbit river band, numbering over one hundred, are anxious to become farmers. Last spring they eagerly availed themselves of tools and seed furnished from the agricultural fund.

The Sandy lake band number about three hundred. For the last five years they have been allowed a farmer and blacksmith, and among them is a mission house. Notwithstanding these favors, they have not improved. Their location is blessed with few natural advantages: the lake affords no rice, and but few fish. The occasional flooding of their fields by the Mississippi has discouraged them, and their farm for two years past has been discontinued. For two years their rice crops have failed, and the majority of this band have passed the winters in the vicinity of Crow Wing and Fort Gaines, on ceded lands, hunting and begging for a living.

The Pillagers.—This branch of the Chippewa tribe resides on unceded lands in Minnesota, west of the Mississippi. They number one thousand and fifty, and have their villages at Leech and Ottertail lakes. They are called *Muk-un-dua-wi-in-e-wing*, or the "Men who take by force." Only in their distinctive name do they differ from the Chippewas of the Mississippi and Lake Superior: they spring from the same stock, speak in every respect the same language. They were invited to the treaty at St. Peter's in 1837, and made parties thereto—their chief, *Flat Mouth*, being the first to affix his signature; but, through the caprice and injustice of the other bands, the Pillagers have been refused their share in the annuities accruing under the treaty. This bad faith has created a breach between them and their brethren of Lake Superior and the Mississippi; and it will be extremely difficult to persuade them to coalesce with the latter, and hold with them, as mutual advantage dictates, lands in common.

The Pillagers own in their own right a tract of country four hundred miles in area, interspersed with innumerable fresh-water lakes, which abound in fish. The region has been well suited to their roving modes of life; but, as the animals which are valuable for food or furs have receded, the hunters seek their game upon the lands of the Sionx.

In 1847, they ceded by treaty about six hundred thousand acres of their best hunting-ground as a home for the Menomonies. For this they annually receive for five years a stated amount of goods, averaging about three dollars per head. The insignificance of this annuity causes ill-will among themselves, and dissatisfaction with government. They evidently misunderstand the terms of the treaty; and a feeling of distrust, even of hostility, is generating in their breasts towards the United States.

Of the Chippewas residing within the limits of the United States, the Pillagers have been the least infected by intercourse with a depraved white population. But, since the payment of their small annuity, and the introduction of the Winnebagoes into their vicinity, a gradual change has taken place in their character. They have never received encouragement to become agriculturists, and are therefore entirely destitute of the necessary implements for farming. Last summer their rice crop entirely failed, and on this article they depend mostly for their winter's support. Hunger and starvation menace them; and, in order to procure means of sustenance,

their hunters this winter will be forced to press westward till they find the buffalo.

Their country lies in an excellent climate, and possesses many natural advantages; their lakes are surrounded by extensive and beautiful maple bottoms; and, could their attention be directed to agriculture, and some slight help afforded them, they would soon become independent of charity.

Within a few years past, a fragment of the band have moved gradually to the western outskirts of their country, and established themselves at Ottetail lake. These now number some three hundred. They hunt altogether upon Sioux land, as recognised by the lines established by the treaty at Prairie du Chien in 1825.

The northern or Red lake division.—In this division are embraced all the remaining bands, dwelling in the United States, which have descended from the main trunk of that tribe, who, making their way through the Sault Ste. Marie, spread along the south shore of Lake Superior, and from La Pointe scattered over the country of their present occupancy by way of the St. Louis river and Sandy lake.

The fact of their receiving no annuities draws a distinct line of demarcation between this and the other divisions of the Ojibwas.

Their principal villages are at Pembina and at Red, Cass, and Winnepeg lakes. From a partial census taken in 1846 by J. P. Hays, esq., sub agent at La Pointe, their number was estimated at twelve hundred.

The Red lake and Pembina bands derive their subsistence chiefly from agriculture. To this mode of life they have been led by the persuasions of their excellent missionaries, and by the example of the northern half-breeds, with whom they have frequent communication. According to estimates of their traders, they will this year produce not less than two thousand bushels of corn.

In the winter season, they move their camps west of the Red river, to hunt the buffalo, which still abound in that region. In summer, some join the hunting caravans of the Red river half breeds. They have lived in a state of constant warfare with the upper or Sissiton bands of Sioux, and only in obedience to the wishes of government have they refrained during the past summer from fitting out war parties.

Notwithstanding the boundaries of the different northern tribes were plainly marked and defined by the treaty at Prairie du Chien in 1826, the Red lake bands and the Pillagers claim, by title of conquest and actual possession, a large tract of country lying west of Red river. This matter, at the present time, is much agitated among these bands; and, as their head chiefs were not present to represent their interests at the convention of Prairie du Chien, the claim perhaps deserves consideration.

The chieftainship among the Red lake and Pembina bands is a fruitful subject of contest. *Wa wan-je-guon* has for some years been the chief recognised by government; but he is represented as a savage of limited influence with his bands, and not belonging to the hereditary family of chiefs. *Wa-wush-kin ik-a*, or "Crooked Arm," is the hereditary chief, and is said to be much respected by his fellows.

Some years ago, *Wa-wan-je-guon*, with a party of his young men, being on a war path, came across a village of the "Gros Ventres," towards the sources of the Missouri river. With the inhabitants of this village they smoked the pipe of peace, and in course of their council learned from their

old men that once the smoke of the "Gros Ventres" lodges arose at Sandy lake; that they had had a large village of earthen houses at the mouth of the Savannah river, which empties into the St. Louis; and that the Sioux had driven them from that country, and pursued them to the Rocky mountains, thinning their ranks, till but a broken remnant remained of their once numerous tribe. The spot described by the "Gros Ventres" as the site of their ancient village was afterwards examined by an intelligent trader, to whom *Wa wan-je-guon* had narrated the tale, and traces of mounds and remains of earthen huts were discovered, to corroborate the statement. Though not immediately connected with the history of the Chippewas, I have introduced this fact as one of some importance in tracing the early history and movements of the various tribes who at different times have inhabited this Territory.

The Cass and Winnepeg lake bands number about five hundred. They live mostly by fishing and hunting; and, their country having become nearly destitute of game, they are miserably poor, and, in order to subsist, must direct their attention to agriculture. This people have never received help from government, and the only encouragement given them by whites has proceeded from the missionaries who have lately settled among them. The fire on the hearthstone of these Christian pioneers is the only sunshine which illumines the darkened pathway of these distressed and destitute bands. Their endeavors to enlighten their ignorance and improve their temporal condition cannot be too highly lauded; but their means are small, and, to effect permanent good, it is imperative that assistance be extended to them.

As the northern Chippewas receive no annuities, they would gladly sell a portion of their lands to relieve themselves from the utter poverty which presses upon them, and become recipients of government bounty.

The influence of Flat Mouth, Pillager head chief, extends over all these bands; and their chiefs in council have solemnly agreed to abide by his experience and advice.

Sug-wun-dug-ah-win-in-e-wug.—This section of the Chippewa tribe inhabit the north coast of Lake Superior, within the lines of Minnesota. They are denominated *Sug-wun-dug-ah-win-in-e-wug*, or "Men who live amongst the thick fir woods." By old French traders they were called the "Bois Fort" or "Hard Woods." They number within our limits about eight hundred, and have villages at Rainy and Vermilion lakes. They hunt over the country which stretches from the Lake of the Woods to the mouth of Pigeon river.

This extensive tract is unadapted to agriculture, lies in an almost arctic climate, and abounds in swamps and thick, interminable forests of fir. The copper and other minerals which are found upon the north coast of Lake Superior and among the *Mis-aub-ay* heights of the interior are the only loadstone which can ever attract an American population to this portion of Minnesota, though the inexhaustible fisheries of Lake Superior may in progress of time augment its growth and importance.

The band living upon these lands spring from a branch of the Chippewa tribe who separated from the main body, in Canada, when first commenced the retrograde movement before the advance of their powerful eastern enemies, the *Nod-o-waig*, or Six Nations. This section moved westward along the north shore of Lake Superior, and never effected a junction with their brethren at the central town of La Pointe.

To this body belong the *Musk-e-goes*, or "Swamp people," the *O dish-quag-um ees*, or "Last Water people," and other bands scattered through the British possessions. The *O-dish-quag-um-ees* are the division of Chippewas mentioned by Mr. Schoolcraft as pure Algonquins.

These bands all speak the same language as the more southern divisions; but there is a variance in their pronunciation of certain words extracted from the same root, and their accentuation is entirely different.

This people have little intercourse with Americans, and trade mostly with the Hudson's Bay Company. A few enterprising American traders have sent among them outfits; but the animals which are valuable for fur are rapidly disappearing, and the trade is comparatively worthless.

The *Sug-wun-dug-ah-win-in-e-wug* are miserably poor, depending for subsistence upon the precarious supplies of the chase. They rely for their winter's support upon the rabbit and reindeer. Last year the rabbit almost entirely disappeared, having been swept off by a distemper. Great distress ensued, and, during the winter, thirteen of their number literally starved to death. This season the rice crop has failed, and this people anticipate with aching hearts the sufferings and privations of the approaching winter. Our government has shown them but little attention, and their predilections are in favor of the British, who have treated them with much kindness.

The entire Chippewa tribe are divided into fifteen families, upon the *totemic* principle, to each of which are four subdivisions. Each family has a crest or symbol of some bird, fish, or animal, called in their nomenclature the *totem*, to the origin of each of which some legend attaches. The system is ancient, and dates as far back as their most unnatural and absurd traditions extend. Though divided by thousands of miles, and unconnected for generations, members of the same *totem* cannot intermarry or cohabit with one another. The *totem* descends in the male line.

The *Ah-auh-wauh*, or *Loon totem*, compose the royal line. "Great Buffalo," the present head of this family, was born at La Pointe, in Lake Superior, during the revolutionary war. From tender years he has borne a conspicuous part in the history of his tribe, and has signed every treaty to which they have become parties for the last thirty years. One circumstance in his past life has caused him great mortification. The creed of the Shawnee prophet, brother of Tecumseh, spread like wildfire among the northern and western tribes. Legates were sent from tribe to tribe, and village to village, and Buffalo became a firm believer, and with him believed his tribe. At Point Shag-a-waum-ik-ong he collected his people, and instructed them in the mysteries of the new faith. He even started with over two hundred canoes to go in search of the prophet, and took along with him the corpse of a child, which he fully believed the prophet could restore to life. At the Pictured Rocks, on Lake Superior, he met the trader Michel Cadotte, who with great difficulty succeeded in turning him back. At the time "Great Buffalo" was not apprized that the object of the prophet and Tecumseh was the expulsion of the whites from the territory of the northwest.

The *Aud-je-jauk*, or "Crane," and the *A-waus-is-ee*, or "Catfish," are noted *totems*. The *Muk-wah*, or "Bear family," comprise the war chiefs.

At the time of the treaty at Prairie du Chien in 1826, the Chippewas

had but seven principal chiefs. Each of these had his war chief and *osh-ka-ba-was*, or "serving man." The latter office was hereditary, but the former position was secured by brave conduct in war. In later years a bad practice has obtained among government agents, of breaking and creating chiefs at pleasure. To such extent has this been carried, that among this tribe there are now nearly sixty chiefs; while, twelve years ago, there were but seven principal, and less than twelve sub-chiefs. The evil consequences are visible in the envy and dissensions engendered among themselves. Frequently, chiefs have been created through the influence of traders; and, as these feel bound to support the interests of the trader to whose offices they are indebted for their dignity, when the latter disagree, the quarrel is transferred, with increased acrimony, to the Indians.

The *Me-da-we*, or priesthood, interfere but little in the civil polity of the tribe, and are admitted to the national councils—not as a class, but solely on personal considerations.

It is to be regretted that the appropriation of Congress to defray the expenses of removal and subsistence of the Chippewas from the lands ceded by them in Michigan and Wisconsin was not made at a day sufficiently early to warrant a removal this fall. In these high latitudes, the removal of a whole people after the first of November would be attended with much hardship, both to them and to the officers and employes attached to the service; and the probability is, that active measures will have to be suspended until next spring.

Early in this year, however, a plan of removal was fully matured in this office, and agents, ready for service at a moment's notice, were designated to superintend each band, and counsel and assist them upon the march. Provisions for subsistence were placed at convenient points of *depot* upon the line; and, to insure the greatest despatch, a gentleman of great influence with the tribe was appointed to superintend the removal, and aid the sub agent in the additional duties thereby imposed. Should the department defer further action until spring, it is to be hoped that we may still profit by what has already been done.

Preparatory to the removal, early in the summer, I visited the Ojibwa country, for the purpose of selecting a suitable site for an agency. Composing the party of exploration were Judge Cooper, of the supreme court of the Territory, J. S. Watrous, Chippewa sub-agent, Mr. Warren, and other gentlemen. Our departure from St. Paul occurred about the middle of June; and from the Falls of St. Anthony to Sauk rapids we enjoyed the accommodation of a steamer.

The appearance of the Mississippi below and above the falls is entirely dissimilar. Below, the banks are bold and precipitous; above, the inclination is gradual, with a gentle ascent as far back as the eye can reach. The country is principally prairie, though well wooded, and pretty well watered, either by bright, beautiful, and gushing springs issuing from the banks of the river, crystal brooks coursing from the highlands, or transparent and limpid lakes dotting the plain. The prairie is fertile, undulating, and broken here and there by green groves of handsome oaks.

From Sauk rapids we journeyed by land to Crow Wing, at which point we met the *voyageurs* who were to be our pilots above. Crossing the Mississippi above Crow Wing, we directed our course to Gull lake. In the centre of this lake is a high conical pile of boulders, looking as if

rolled up by the studied efforts of art into a kind of cone, upon which the gulls, a bird which abounds here, lay and hatch. The lake abounds in the choicest species of fish, and in the vicinity are found sugar bushes and rice fields.

Traversing in our canoes this lake, which is about five miles in width and twelve to fourteen in length, we entered, after a portage of a mile and a half, Lake Sibley; from thence, with a portage of two miles, we came to Spirit lake, and followed an outlet from that into Cooper, a large and beautiful lake; thence we passed through White Fish lake, and up Pine river to a rapid stream which was named Stanly river. The wood upon this river is pine, oak, maple, birch, &c. The shores are fertile; the water pure, but of slight amber color, occasioned by the immense pine forests through which it runs. From this, after making several short portages, and crossing a number of small lakes, we came to *Sa na-be* lake. This is the summit of the ganglionic chain of lakes which stretches over this country, and abounds in the Indian edibles of fish and rice. The margin is thickly timbered with small trees of every variety, and in the rear is fine natural meadow. Passing over Little Boy lake, which is some six or seven miles long and two wide, and down Little Boy river, we entered the great *reservoir*, Leech lake.

This is a very extensive sheet of water, being about twenty-five miles in length and from fifteen to eighteen in width. Its shores have a very crooked outline, which, with its nine bays, give it an oblong circumference of about one hundred and sixty miles. Ice forms upon it about the middle of November, and leaves about the middle of May. The coast is hedged in with boulders, piled up along the margin sometimes five and six feet above the water. The lands around are fertile, sugar trees are abundant, and rice is obtained in large quantities. The lake has capacity for supplying at least three thousand souls. Every article of food which the Indian needs for subsistence can be found either in its bosom or upon its shores. The fish are abundant and of great variety, comprising the whitefish, the tullbe, musketon, bass, sunfish, and bullhead. Turtles of magnificent size and flavor are also found. After a boisterous passage over this lake, through a heavy sea, which ran so high that the boat astern of us, not more than twenty yards distant, with sails extending fifteen feet above deck, could not be seen, we made the trading post of George Bango, a Metis or cross of the African and Indian.

After spending a day or two at Leech lake, we commenced our return voyage, intending to describe a water circle, and descend by the course of the Mississippi. Making several portages, we once more, after a considerable absence, found ourselves floating on its waters in *Cass lake*—so named from General Cass, whose exploring expedition on the upper Mississippi in 1820 terminated here. This sheet is an expansion of the Mississippi river, about one hundred and forty-nine miles from its source in Lake Itasca. It is worthy of note, that, so far north as $47^{\circ} 30'$, the missionaries had fields of *winter* wheat growing, and all kinds of planted vegetation looked fine. Cass lake is in several respects a beautiful body of water; it is full of islands, and about sixteen miles long and nearly as broad.

The oars of our *voyageurs*, keeping time to their cheerful boat song, sent us rapidly over its swelling waves into another pretty watery ganglion called Lake Winnebigoishish; and thence with all possible speed we

descended the river to Sandy lake, at the outlet of which the Mississippi is three hundred and thirty-one feet wide.

Sandy lake is about twelve miles long and six or seven wide. It derives its name from its sandy beaches, which are variegated with quartz pebbles, colored in all the shades of red, from a bright vermillion to a brown, including often many fine specimens of carnelions and agates. The lake shores are hilly, and the country around arid and unproductive. The lake is famous among *voyageurs* and fur traders as the terminus of the old trading route from Lake Superior to the Mississippi. It is distant seventy-five miles in a nearly straight line due west from the *Pond du Lac* of that "very great water."

At this place we determined temporarily to locate the agency, though our election was controlled by other circumstances than the natural advantages of the site. *Leech lake* is the place; but, for prudential reasons already adverted to, its selection was placed out of question.

In this connexion I would respectfully invite the attention of the department to a communication from this office of date July 16, 1850, urging the policy of entering into conventional arrangement with the Pillagers with a view of opening their country to the use and occupancy of the other bands of Chippewas. These lands should be held by tenancy in common, subject to the unrestricted use of all the members of the tribe.

Let this be done, and a much more desirable site for an agency can be had—one that will be permanent, accessible to the Indians, and convenient for government. Should the department coincide with the views advanced in that letter, and direct the initial for locating the permanent agency of the entire tribe at Leech lake, the slight improvements which, with great economy, have been made during the past summer at Sandy lake, could be turned to account as the residence of an Indian farmer.

Although a formal order to remove has at no time been communicated to the Chippewas occupying the ceded lands in Michigan and Wisconsin, yet, under instructions from your bureau, they were early informed that during the year they would be called upon so to do. Many of them, during the past season, have voluntarily migrated to the seat of the agency, and these will require supplies from government for their subsistence during the winter; for to expose them to privation would exert a baleful influence upon the residue of the tribe, who will be expected to remove the coming spring.

Officers of the Indian department at different times have pressed the purchase of the Chippewa country east of the Mississippi. This region lies altogether within the limits of Minnesota, north of a line running nearly due east from the mouth of Crow Wing river. A narrow strip of the country, to which allusion has already been made, on the northwest shore of Lake Superior, is represented to hold large deposits of copper ore. This it might be politic to treat for. On other portions is some valuable pine, though but a limited amount. The privilege of cutting this might be extended to our white population; but not an *acre* of the residue can I conceive government will ever need for its citizens. It is a country no American population would ever occupy. Most of it is interminable swamps, with occasional sand ridges and rice lakes. In short, it is just suited to the habits of the people who at present inhabit it, and to no others.

With this estimate of the country, in order to quiet the apprehension of further removals entertained by the Chippewas, I think it would be wise and humane for government to guaranty them, by solemn act of legislation, the undisturbed possession forever of these regions.

The Metis or Half-breeds of the Red river of the North number eleven hundred souls, and are mostly of a mixed descent of Chippewa and Canadian French. Owing to their apparent seclusion from the world, the accounts given of them have been meagre and jejune; yet already have they laid a solid foundation for the fabric of social improvement, and, as a political community, present many interesting features for consideration. By the laws of Minnesota, they are admitted to the rights of citizenship, and, by means of annual caravans, carry on an extensive and profitable commerce with our citizens. Many of their traders, during the past season, have been robbed by the Pillagers, through whose territory they are compelled to pass in pursuing the trail to St. Paul.

Since my last annual report, this people have, upon several occasions, importunately urged the necessity of decisive and peremptory action by government to protect them in their rights as American citizens, and preserve the buffalo which range the northern plains from the trespass of British subjects, who, destroying them in their annual, hunts diminish thereby their means of subsistence.

In a letter received from the Rev. G. A. Belcourt, of Pembina, with whom I have had much correspondence, dated the 15th of September last, grave complaints are preferred of manifold injuries and insults received by the Half-breeds, during a series of years, from subjects of the British crown, and of the overbearing spirit exhibited in the deportment of the agents of the Hudson's Bay Company. The communication speaks in strong terms of the cupidity of their factories; and, referring to the trespasses which continually occur upon American soil in pursuit of buffalo, says: "The yield of the hunt of our Half-breeds has been a great deal less than ordinary, as the Half-breeds on the British side came over first and frightened away all the animals. This has caused us much damage. The British Half-breeds returned heavily laden, taking away the game of our prairies to their homes, while the proprietors returned only with half loads, after being gone one month longer than usual. In consequence of this injustice, a great number of our Half-breeds, having nothing to live on this winter, will be obliged to go far to hunt, after the Indian fashion, and be exposed to a great deal of misery, and then return home too late to sow in the spring. In the mean time, a great number will have to pass the winter here, and suffer great privations in keeping themselves in readiness for planting season next spring."

Congress, at the close of its late session, I perceive, made an appropriation to defray the expenses of a treaty with the proprietors of the soil on Red river. When this is effected, and the operation of our laws extended over these Half-breeds, adequate remedies will accrue, and all that they can reasonably desire will undoubtedly be accomplished.

As these *Metis*, though considerably advanced in civilization, were practically without law, at the request of a deputation of their people who visited me in July last, I recognised Jean Baptiste Wilkie, Jean Baptiste Dumon, Baptiste Valle, Edward Harmon, Jos. Lovardure, Jos. Nolin, Antoine Augure, Robert Montour, and Baptiste Lafournais, persons freely elected by the Half-breeds of Pembina as councillors or chiefs, to whom the

general administration of the affairs of the Half-breeds residing upon the Red river of the North should be intrusted.

Accompanying this report I have the honor to transmit you the annual reports of the Winnebago agents, and of the Sioux and Chippewa sub-agents, which enter more fully into the affairs of the tribes under their respective charge than the general nature of this report would admit.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALEX. RAMSEY.

HON. LUKE LEA,

*Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.*

No. 14.

WINNEBAGO AGENCY,
September 30, 1850.

SIR: I have the honor to submit, in compliance with the regulations of the department, a report of affairs at this agency, and the condition of the Indians in my charge, during the past year.

Eight bands of the Winnebagoes are now located in the interior of their country at this agency. These Indians have been industrious, and the success which they have had in farming the present season has had the effect to silence their complaints respecting their country. The chiefs of these bands, a few weeks since, asked me to inform their Great Father that they were satisfied with the country which he has given them, and to present their request that they may be permitted to remain here, and their children after them. Eleven bands, or parts of bands, have lived during the past year on the Mississippi river. Their aversion to living in the interior of their country, and their attachment to the Mississippi, is accounted for by the fact that at the agency they would have to encounter difficulties in procuring whiskey, while in the white settlements on the east side of said river they can procure it without difficulty. These Indians planted no corn last spring, and but half cultivated a field of about thirty acres planted for them. The migrating party of the tribe spent the winter in Wisconsin, Iowa, and the country belonging to the Sioux; most of them returned, as usual, in the spring and summer, before payment, to get their annuities. Owing to inducements offered and the facilities provided by the department for their removal, some one hundred and twenty-seven Indians, half-breeds, and others, more distantly connected with the tribe, have removed to this country the present season, who had not previously removed. Some of this migrating party will remain here; others will again return south, if they are not prevented. It is believed that a majority of the citizens with whom the Indians have intercourse, in those portions of Wisconsin and Iowa where they resort, encourage said Indians to come among them—make them welcome while they have money or furs, and invite them to return after they receive their annuities; while the facility with which the Indians procure intoxicating drink in those neighborhoods is a still stronger inducement to them to return. To contend successfully against all these influences, and keep the Indians within their proper limits, will subject the government annually to great expense.

The opinion is respectfully submitted, that the best way to keep the Winnebagoes within their own country is to make their remaining at home a condition of their receiving their annuities, and, if they trespass on the whites, hold them amenable to the law. A few prosecutions for offences will prevent their repetition, by causing the Indians to leave the neighborhood. Indians will seldom visit or long remain in a community where they are not made welcome and encouraged to stay.

Nearly all the depredations committed by the Winnebagoes in the white settlements, that have come to my knowledge, have been caused by intoxicating liquors furnished the Indians directly or indirectly by the whites.

There is great reluctance manifested by citizens living on the frontier to prosecute individual Indians for offences committed by them against the laws, while little reluctance is shown in presenting claims against the tribe for depredations. The provision of the 17th section of the "Act to regulate trade and intercourse with Indian tribes, and to preserve peace on the frontier," which guaranties to citizens indemnification for depredations committed by Indians within States and Territories, is no doubt just, so far as it affects the citizens; still, if its application were restricted to depredations committed within the Indian country, there would be less depredation committed by Indians on the rights and property of citizens on the frontier; for the laws of the State or Territory would then be enforced, and would prove as effectual in restraining Indians as whites. While this provision of the intercourse law is the only corrective applied by citizens to prevent depredations on their property by Indians, the Indian knows that, if he steals a horse or other property, he incurs no personal risk of punishment; and the fact that, if detected, he will be liable to perhaps one fifteen-hundredth part of the cost of reparation, is a feeble restraint against committing the theft.

A few weeks since, I instituted a prosecution against seven Winnebago Indians for robbery and theft, committed in Benton county, Minnesota Territory. I desired the citizens who had suffered wrong from the Indians to prosecute them for said offence, but they positively refused to do so; and I entered complaint before the civil authority against the Indians, believing the effect would be salutary on the tribe. The robbery and theft aforesaid were committed by the Indians under excitement, produced by an affray, which occurred on the 23d June, between them and some white men, at a grocery near Osake's rapids, in which affray one Indian was shot dead and two wounded—one severely,—and two white men were severely bruised, and one of them stabbed in the arm by the Indians. Each party charges the other with being the aggressor in the fight.

But little whiskey has been introduced into the country occupied by the Winnebagoes during the past year; some two or three individuals have violated the trade and intercourse law in this respect; for which they will be prosecuted at the first term of the district court. The legislature of Minnesota, at their session last winter, enacted salutary laws for the suppression of the traffic in ardent spirits to Indians; but the practicability of their execution in this neighborhood has not yet been tested, owing to the fact that a session of the district court has not been held north of the Falls of St. Anthony since the organization of this Territory. The military have been far more efficient than the civil authority

in suppressing the traffic in intoxicating liquor with Indians on the borders of this agency. Until the visit of your excellency and Judge Cooper to Fort Gaines, last summer, those engaged in said traffic had reason to suppose that the civil authority considered it a venial offence.

A considerable number of the tribe have, since the annuity payment last month, returned into Benton county, on the east side of the Mississippi, and south of their country, to live in the neighborhood of traders who have established trading posts on the border of the Indian country. The consequence has been, hitherto, that the Indians have procured whiskey, got into difficulty with the inhabitants, and committed depredations, for which heavy claims have been brought against the tribe, and representations made in newspapers that these outrages result from the bad management of the agent, his lack of influence with the Indians, and consequent inability to keep them at home. And such will probably continue to be the consequences resulting from these trading establishments so long as they remain there. License to trade within the Indian country was offered these traders before they established their posts on the east side of the Mississippi, and has since been offered them, on condition that they would remove their posts to some point within the Indian country. This offer has been declined; they prefer to have their establishments where they are not subject to the law regulating trade and intercourse with the Indians. For this evil I see no remedy, unless the legislature of this Territory shall enact laws prohibiting trade with Indians without the limits of the Indian country.

The Winnebagoes continue on friendly terms with their neighbors, the Sioux and Chippewas, and have done much the present season to prevent bloodshed between these tribes. The Chippewas allege that they were encouraged by "Sho-go-wik" and "Paw-sal-ech-kaw," two Winnebago chiefs, to make war on the Sioux last summer, and that they were promised assistance. I do not know how much truth there may be in this statement; but when the Chippewas came in force to go against the Sioux, these two chiefs, who were accused of instigating and encouraging the war party, were the most active and efficient in persuading said party to return peaceably to their own country.

Ambition to acquire the fame and laurels which are by all nations awarded to deeds of martial prowess, is a ruling passion in the breast of the Indian; nor is it strange that it should be so. The young man, before he can claim a right to speak in council, must appear there plumed with the feather of the war eagle; and the same emblem of success on the war path entitles him to seek a wife among the daughters of the high in rank. It is the opinion of those best acquainted with the Indian character, that, of the uncivilized tribes, those engaged in war are the most enterprising and virtuous. The Indian must have excitement. He seeks it on the war path; deprive him of this, and he will seek excitement in gambling and intoxication. Create among his tribe a public sentiment which attaches distinction and influence to the possession of wealth, and his energies may be directed to the acquisition of property, and an important step is gained towards his civilization. If the department intends to carry into effect the benevolent design of suppressing the bloody warfare now existing between the Sioux and Chippewas, it will be necessary to adopt efficient measures to suppress hostilities at once, and arbitrate finally in the settlement of their quarrels. Government officers and agents get but poor

thanks for their well-meant interference in settling difficulties between these belligerent tribes; both parties are sure to charge to them any wrong or loss of life they may subsequently sustain from their enemy, and allege that, but for their interference, they should have avenged their wrongs themselves, and thereby prevented a repetition. So long as these tribes are engaged in war with each other, there is little danger of their combining in an attack on the white settlements.

The opinion entertained by many, that the Indian cannot thrive and prosper in a condition of civilization, is erroneous. Ignorance, exposure, and starvation no more conduce to the prosperity and comfort of the Indian than the white man, although habit enables the former to endure these evils with less inconvenience than the latter.

How far the opinion, generally entertained, that the race of the red man is fast diminishing and dwindling towards extinction, may be true in its general application, I will not undertake to determine; but with reference to this tribe, it is believed that the great difference between their present actual number and their number as reported in 1837 is to be accounted for, in part at least, by the erroneous manner then adopted of taking the census. The custom then was for the head of a family to present the agent with a bundle of sticks representing the number of individuals in his or her family, including children, grandchildren, sons and daughters-in-law, &c.; then the different branches of the same family would present their sticks, again, representing themselves and their children. For practising this double-dealing, the Indians had a motive, as each head of a family drew as many shares of the annuity as he had individuals in his family entered on the roll. This method of taking the census was, I believe, formerly adopted by the Chippewas.

For three years previous to the removal of the Winnebagoes, there was an increase of their population. In 1847, the number of births exceeded the number of deaths by seventy-six. The number of births the past year in the bands located at this agency exceed the number of deaths some twenty-five or thirty. At the ensuing payment, statistics will be taken to ascertain the increase or decrease of the portion of the tribe that live on the Mississippi, and are less civilized.

The school for the Indians at this agency continued in operation until the 30th June last, when it was discontinued on account of the resignation of the teachers. From the time the school commenced, in November, until it was discontinued, four teachers were employed; the average number of scholars during the term was about 48. Several Chippewa children were permitted to attend the school. The children were taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, as provided in the treaty of 1832. The girls attending the school have been instructed in sewing and knitting; a part of the clothing for the children attending the school was made in the school. The theory that "it is cheaper to buy than to manufacture," has to some extent prevailed in the female department of the school, and the instruction in "carding, spinning, and weaving," required by said treaty, has been dispensed with. Practical instruction to the boys attending the school in gardening and agriculture was also dispensed with, as heretofore. Land was ploughed last spring for the use of the school, and offered to the superintendent for that purpose, but he did not deem it expedient to work the boys in the field. I am satisfied that the teachers endeavored faith-

fully to instruct the children in such branches as they deemed most important.

The usual annual report of the school has not been received from the superintendent; and, presuming that he will not deem it necessary to make a report, I submit the foregoing statement, which, so far as it relates to the statistics of the school, is made from his quarterly reports, and will no doubt be considered sufficiently specific.

At the time the school closed, for the cause stated, other teachers would have been employed, and the school continued in operation, but for the understanding that the department intended the immediate reorganization of the school, and the placing of the funds appropriated for education in the hands of the missionary societies.

I am not personally acquainted with the operation of manual-labor schools, as conducted by missionary societies among the different tribes of Indians where such schools have been established, nor with the success which may have attended them; but I would respectfully submit, that, from my knowledge of this tribe, and the result of an experiment in the school here in all respects, so far as the Indians are concerned, similar to the system specified in the contract prepared for the intended manual-labor school at this agency, I am satisfied that an attempt to sustain a school among the Winnebagoes on said system will prove abortive. A boarding-house has for several years past, and I believe from the first commencement of the school, been connected with it. Such children as chose to live at said boarding house and attend the school had the privilege of doing so. Some few of the children that attended the school lived for a time in the families of the teachers and other employés at the agency; but all these children left said families and returned to the wigwam several months previous to the closing of the school. Very few, if any, of the influential families in the tribe have at any time allowed their children to board at the school. If the funds appropriated for the establishment of manual-labor schools in this tribe are expended in the buildings, furniture, &c., for two school establishments, and the children are required to live with their teachers at those establishments, the Indians will derive but little benefit from the expenditure; for very few children in the tribe can be induced to attend the schools.

The funds provided for education for the Winnebagoes are ample to afford a common-school education to every child in the tribe, and, with judicious management, may be so applied. In order to effect this desirable object, a system similar in most respects to the system of "common" or district schools in the States should be adopted. Comfortable school-houses, with two rooms sufficiently large to accommodate forty scholars each, should be built, and also dwelling-houses for teachers. A garden, field, and shop should be attached to each school, in which the boys of suitable age should be required to work a part of the time daily. This system of manual-labor schools will be of general application, and consequently will be popular with the Indians, and will remove the prejudice which has hitherto existed against the school on account of its benefits being confined to the few that were settled in its immediate vicinity.

A judicious discrimination in the selection of teachers can be observed by the agents of the government, as well as by agents of missionary societies.

If the churches wish to Christianize this people, let them send their

missionaries to proclaim the gospel to them without money and without price; the Indians might appreciate such benevolence, and listen to the missionary without that prejudice which a knowledge that his services were rendered by contract would unavoidably create.

There has been considerable sickness in this tribe for several months past; dysentery has been the prevalent disease, and confined mostly to children. Many of the Indians, when sick, apply at once to the physician employed for them; some still employ the medicine-men of the tribe, who, in case they find their patient likely to die, will at the last moment send for the regular physician, in order to shift the responsibility of the case on him. These medicine-men, or Indian doctors, charge high fees for their services, and not unfrequently demand their fee in advance.

Three blacksmiths and two assistants are at the present time employed for this tribe; during the summer but two blacksmiths were employed, one having resigned on account of the moderate salary allowed. The manner in which the blacksmiths have discharged their duty the past year has been entirely satisfactory.

The past season has been very unfavorable for business, on account of heavy rains, which have subjected us to great expense in repairing roads, and in making and repairing bridges which were carried away by the unusual rise in the rivers. The saw-mill has been kept in operation a part of the season; something has been done at building houses for the Indians. We were for nearly three months prevented by high water from hauling lumber from the mill, which has prevented our accomplishing as much in building as was intended. Twenty houses for the Indians are finished; sixteen of them have been finished during the year; seven houses have been erected which are yet unfinished, and five more commenced. The half-breeds have, since this agency has been established, built seven houses for themselves: some assistance, by furnishing lumber, has been rendered them. The Indians who occupy houses have most of them provided themselves furniture; cook stoves have been furnished them; and these families appear to contrast their present comforts with their former mode of living with much satisfaction. The balance of the season will be devoted chiefly to building houses for the Indians. All that are able to work are required to assist in building their houses.

During the past year, the agency house has been finished, and an office for the agency, a house for the physician, a house for the interpreter, and a large warehouse for the Indians, containing a council-room, built by contract.

The crops on the farm at this agency have been good. 455½ acres of land were ploughed in the spring for cultivation; of this, 200 acres were turned over to H. M. Rice, esq., (contractor for the removal of the Winnebagoes,) which land he planted, and partially cultivated 140 acres of the same; he also ploughed and planted a field of about thirty acres for the Indians on the Mississippi river. The Indians planted and cultivated 143 acres in corn, potatoes, and other vegetables: the balance, 112½ acres, was cultivated by the laborers employed for the Indians, of which 34½ acres were cultivated in wheat, 49½ in oats, 13 in potatoes, 10 in peas, 2 in corn, and 4 in a garden. Such part of the 60 acres left uncultivated by Mr. Rice as was worth cultivating was worked by the laborers employed for the Indians, and the balance sown in turnips. During the summer, 35 acres of prairie have been broken, and 27 of the

same sown in turnips. 364 rods of fence have been made by contract on the Indian farm the present season, and 1,976 rods by laborers employed. A part of said fence has been made to enclose a pasture of 162 acres.

A map of the Winnebago agency and farm is herewith transmitted. A map of the country included in this agency, showing the location of each band, &c., will be made and forwarded as soon as I can find time to make the requisite survey of the country. These statistical returns ought to have been furnished by the teachers employed in the school.

It is important that the boundary between the Winnebagoes and Sioux should be resurveyed and distinctly marked.

If the government would purchase for this tribe, or permit them to purchase of the Sioux, that portion of their country lying north of Osake's river, it would give them a natural boundary, and probably have the effect to render the disaffected portion satisfied with their country.

Over the Chippewas of the Mississippi and the Pillagers I have for several months past had concurrent jurisdiction with J. S. Watrous, esq., Indian sub-agent. The main body of the Pillagers I see but annually, at their annuity payment; occasionally a party of them, on a war or hunting excursion, visit this agency. This band are becoming limited in their means of subsistence, and stand in need of assistance to start them in agricultural pursuits.

The Chippewas at Gull lake have fallen far short of my hopes and expectations in their farming operations the present season. Teams, tools, and seed were issued to their farmer for them in the spring, and industry on their part would have made them comfortable during the year. The unfortunate difficulty which occurred between them and the Sioux was most untimely, and was no doubt one cause of their failure in farming.

Notwithstanding the cordial friendship which exists between the Chippewas and Winnebagoes, I have had frequent occasion to arbitrate between them, on trials of the right of property. I am aware that this is an assumption of authority, but it sometimes becomes necessary for agents to have appellate jurisdiction in the settlement of difficulties of this kind.

If laws were enacted to punish crimes among Indians, and to regulate intercourse between the different tribes, it would probably have a salutary effect. The experiment might be made, and is worth the trial.

In submitting this report, I am aware that the department consider that "agents and sub-agents are insensibly partial in their representations respecting the condition and affairs of the tribes in their charge," and that "they naturally wish to show as favorable a state of things as possible, in order that they may appear as well or better than those in other agencies." In the discharge of my duty, it has been my ambition to meet the approval of the department, and I shall be highly gratified if I have in any measure succeeded; but I claim no meritorious comparison with others. A part of the Indians in my charge have always been difficult to manage; for two years past, influences beyond my control have been brought to bear upon them, which have rendered them more so. The success of my efforts to restrain them and promote the prosperity of all has fallen far short of my aim and hopes; all that I claim is, that these efforts have been well meant and unremitted, if not well directed.

Letters to this office should be directed, "Winnebago Agency, Long Prairie, Minnesota Territory."

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. E. FLETCHER, *Indian Agent.*

His Excellency ALEX^R RAMSEY,
Sup't Indian Affairs, St. Paul, M. T.

No. 15.

INDIAN SUB-AGENCY, ST. PETER'S,
September 25, 1850.

SIR: I have the honor, in accordance with instructions, to forward to you, to be transmitted to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, my first annual report.

My appointment was dated the 8th of November, and I entered upon the duties of the office the 4th of December last.

I have endeavored to make myself acquainted with the duties connected with the appointment, and perform them in the best manner I was capable. The Sioux, as a tribe of Indians, for a number of years, have not been as prosperous, so far as it regards their advancement in civilization and education, as many other tribes of red men in the west.

The general health, up to this period, has been good; nothing like an epidemic has prevailed among them. We have had but little trouble, comparatively, in regard to intemperance. No licensed trader has been detected in vending spirituous liquors; and the instances are few in which the destructive article has been found among them. When it is remembered that they occupy a country more than two hundred miles in extent on the west side of the Mississippi, and several of their villages being upon the banks of the stream, while the white population occupy the land on the opposite side for nearly the whole distance, the facilities for traffic being so great, it is matter of surprise that there has not been more intemperance among them. A few instances have occurred, where the Indian has crossed over and obtained whiskey from his white neighbor and taken it to his wigwam. Many of them have their names attached to the temperance pledge, embracing most of the chiefs and principal men, who discountenance the use of ardent spirits in such a manner as to hold in check the more dissolute. Taking the seven bands of Sioux (numbering some 2,200) who receive annuities at this agency, they will compare favorably, as it regards temperance, with the same number of white population.

The deadly hostility for many years existing between the Sioux and Chippewas still exists, and their proximity is the cause of frequent outbreaks. Several instances have occurred during the past year, and in one instance attended with atrocities painful to contemplate by a civilized community. In February last, a party of Sioux attacked some Chippewas on the waters of Crow Wing river, upon Sioux land, and killed and scalped the son of White Fisher, a Chippewa chief. Not long afterwards, (in March last,) a large war party of Sioux attacked a small band of Chippewas, on Apple river, in the State of Wisconsin, while engaged at a

sugar camp, and killed and scalped fourteen, including men, women, and children. Few instances have occurred, even in savage warfare, more revolting than this cold-blooded, wholesale murder. Men, women, and children were murdered while unprepared for defence, and by numbers four times greater than their own. The leading men in this bloody affair were arrested and confined at Fort Snelling. Information was sent to the Chippewas that, if they would not seek revenge, the Sioux in prison would be punished for the offence. In a few days, however, after their imprisonment, a small party of Chippewas attacked some Sioux, and killed and scalped one, within one mile of the fort. The prisoners were then released.

In June last, at the instance of our superintendent of Indian affairs, (Governor Ramsey,) a treaty was held by those two tribes at Fort Snelling, for the purpose of settling up their old difficulties and effecting a permanent peace. A treaty held by the same tribes, for the same purpose, at the same place, in 1844, was reaffirmed, and the hostile parties appeared to separate on friendly terms. Since which time, there have been no murders committed by either party to this treaty. As the government are in possession of all the facts in relation to this treaty from higher authority, I need not enlarge.

The Indian farms have produced the usual quantity of corn the present season, and all not destroyed by the flood has been safely harvested. The extraordinary floods that have occurred the past spring and summer in the Mississippi and St. Peter's rivers have entirely destroyed the corn of two bands planted in the bottoms, more than one-half of a third and largest band, and more or less injured some others. The flood has also seriously affected the wild rice and cranberry crop, generally affording much aid in the Indian supplies of provision for use and exchange. Had it not been for the liberality of the government in allowing the sum of \$5,000 for the supply of additional provisions to the annual allowance, much suffering would have been the result the coming winter. By the aid of this extra supply, we think they will be able to pass the season without want for provisions.

For details in regard to the farmers, blacksmiths, &c., I beg leave to refer to the report of Mr. Prescott, superintendent of farmers, attached to this agency. I will remark, however, in this connexion, that the Indian farmers being so remote from each other (more than 100 miles from what is called the lower farm to the upper) prevents that proper oversight necessary to secure an efficient discharge of the duties of the appointment.

Should there not be a treaty effected with the Sioux the present season, and they should remain at their present homes, several new farms will have to be prepared, as there is too much risk from floods in planting on some of the bottoms of the river hitherto occupied. It appears to me also that it would be much better to have those seven bands of Menda-wakanton Sioux interested in the treaty of 1837 located nearer to each other.

There are two schools in progress attached to this agency. Reports from the teachers of these schools, accompanying this communication, will exhibit their condition and prospects. These schools have been in a languishing condition for a long time, arising from various causes. The principal one has repeatedly been explained to the government. The Indians are induced to believe, by those opposed to schools alto-

gether, that their money is used too freely for this purpose; and, if they will not send to school, the government will divide *per capita* the large amount of interest that has accumulated in the treasury arising from the \$100,000 set apart in the treaty of 1337, the interest of which was to be expended for their benefit in such manner as the President might direct. The general opinion is, that this was intended as an education fund; some contend, however, that there was no such understanding when the treaty was made. So long as this question remains undecided, and the Indians occupy their present homes under the apprehension that they will shortly be removed to some other place, the schools cannot benefit them much. It would be unwise, however, to abandon them, and yield up the principle to the opposition. The whole system, in my opinion, should be changed, and the manual-labor plan adopted.

I had the honor a few weeks since to submit my views on this subject to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in a special report I was required to make, and will not again repeat the views therein expressed.

A report from the different missionary stations among the Sioux will be found among the papers. The same reasons which operate against the schools, have their influence unfavorably with regard to the missionary operations. Being somewhat connected with the schools, the minds of the Indians have been prejudiced, and many of them believe that this school fund is their great object.

The missionaries, so far as my knowledge extends, are pious and faithful men, and, from their efforts to civilize and Christianize the Indians, deserve better success than they have received for the last few years. I should consider it a great misfortune should they yield to discouragement and abandon their fields of labor. Although we cannot see much visible fruit from their labors, yet their influence among them is most salutary in restraining them from intemperance, discouraging war parties, and exhibiting before their eyes the practical benefits of civilization and Christianity. They assist them in various ways in their farming operations, advising for the best in their temporal as well as spiritual matters.

A considerable amount has been expended during the past year, surplus from the agricultural fund, in the purchase of ploughs for the farmers, carts, harness, plank, nails, &c., for the Indians, and a number of comfortable cabins have been erected. A few cheap cooking-stoves have been given to the chiefs, with which they are much pleased. One hundred horses were divided among the different bands this summer—costing \$6,000. This was a very bad expenditure, although done at the earnest solicitation of the Indians themselves. Perhaps not more than one-half the number are in possession of those who first received them, the other half dead, many of them killed, and others traded off. Those on hand are in a miserable condition, and very few of them will survive the present winter. Almost any other application of the money would have been more beneficial to them. Every week complaints are made to the agent that horses are killed by Indians of a different band, and claiming payment. Where the proof is positive, we have considered it our duty to interfere, and compel the guilty to compensate the injured party; but the cases are rare where the necessary proof can be obtained.

Some time since, a small amount was asked from the department to build a new storehouse, which was not granted, from the supposition

that the Indians would be removed from their present location in a short time. The present small log building used for that purpose, attached to the interpreter's house, is entirely too small, in a state of dilapidation, insecure, and not worth repairing. When we receive our annuity goods and provisions, including agricultural implements on hand, the amount is at least \$20,000, and requires a good, secure storehouse. We are compelled for want of room to divide off all the goods and provisions at once to the Indians, which I consider bad policy. Having so much in their hands at one time, they traffic them off, and in a short time are destitute. If the provisions were given out in small quantities, as their necessities require, it would be much more beneficial to them.

I would respectfully suggest the propriety of placing a small fund in the hands of the superintendent of Indian affairs for Minnesota, to be drawn upon by the agents, when that officer may think it necessary to give to the Indians, in the shape of food and presents. It will be recollected that not one fifth of those belonging to this agency receive any annuities. They frequently come down to the agency on a visit, and are always destitute, and expect something. If they do not get it, they are disappointed and disaffected, and the agent loses his influence over them. The salary of the sub-agent is quite too small to allow him to be liberal from his private means. It should also be the duty of the agent to visit annually these distant bands, and distribute a few presents among them, to obtain and retain their favor. A small trader who can give them a few pounds of tobacco, and make it up in profits on something else, has more influence over them than an agent clothed with all the authority of the government who has nothing to give. Such is Indian character; and we must take them as they are, and not as they should be.

The amount appropriated last year (\$510) to improve and repair the agency buildings and grounds has been nearly expended, and, when completed, will make the house of the sub-agent and interpreter tolerably comfortable. As those buildings are upon the military reserve at Fort Snelling, and the commanding officer of that post claims to exercise exclusive control over the whole reserve, including the right, when deemed necessary or expedient, to occupy those buildings for the use of the fort, and remove the agent and interpreter with or without cause—that what privilege we have is not of right but by courtesy, and may be changed by each successive commander at the fort—I beg leave to suggest the propriety of obtaining some order from the War Department recognising the right of the agent and interpreter to occupy those buildings, with the privilege of a small parcel of land for cultivation, cutting prairie hay, and getting wood from the reserve sufficient for the wants of two families. The Indian lands are too remote to afford these facilities, without which families cannot subsist on the small salaries allowed.

Having briefly passed over the occurrences of the past year in this agency, leaving the details of each department to those in charge of the same, (and whose reports will be found below,) I beg leave to submit a few general remarks, containing such views as have occurred to me since I have made myself somewhat acquainted with Indian affairs, so far as regards the limited sphere in which I have been called to act.

Should the Indians belonging to this agency be removed, which is probable, in a short time, I would respectfully recommend the following plan for their future government and management at their new homes.

Should they be placed upon a small reserve, (which, I believe, is their wish,) I would, for convenience of superintendence, locate them near together. Upon this reserve might be their villages and fields. If they have hunting grounds, they could easily, a part of the year, withdraw themselves, as they now do, from their homes. The present system of farming may well be abandoned. Instead of having a farmer for each band, as at present, I would concentrate the farming interest at one place, on a large scale, near the centre of the reserve, and have what might be called a *model farm*, carried on by white men. The reserve might be laid off into small lots of forty or eighty acres each, and inducements held out to the Indians to occupy those lots as farmers, by giving each individual or family a possessory right who would commence farming on his own account. Assistance and instructions might be given, but not do the work for them. I am satisfied a number are prepared to embark in an enterprise of this kind, if they had the proper encouragement. The great object to be attained is to stimulate them to habits of industry, give them the idea of individual property, and throw around them the protection of law, to maintain those rights. The great hindrance to their civilization is that communism in which they live. There is no motive for industry; the lazy and profligate share equally with the industrious and well-disposed. This should not be so. The time is drawing near when the Indian must disappear before the overwhelming tide of emigration of the Anglo-Saxon race, unless he abandon in some good degree the chase, and adopt the agricultural system of the white man for subsistence. The American continent, although large, will not always afford him the necessary hunting-ground. All who adopt the habit and manner of life of the white man might very properly be made citizens, so soon as their progress in civilization would justify it. Near the centre of the reserve spoken of, the agency might be located: also, one or more manual-labor schools, where the youth could be educated, without expense to the parent, not only in letters, but agriculture and mechanism, and the females in all that relates to housekeeping. Under a system of this kind, in my opinion, it would not be long before the Sioux would improve in their moral and physical condition. All agree there is no want of natural capacity for improvement. The agency, manual-labor school, missionaries, a large farm, surrounded by an Indian population, upon whom the influence might operate, would, we believe, produce a salutary effect upon the habits of these sons of the forest, and, it is believed, would bring them under the influence of civilization, education, morals, and religion.

An amendment might also be made in the manner of paying the Indians, so far as goods and provisions form a part of their annuities. In this connexion, I would say I heartily concur in the sentiment expressed by the late Commissioner of Indian Affairs, "that, instead of paying the Indians money for their lands, the payment should be in goods, provisions, and expended in other ways for their benefit, rather than giving them money, which too often they expend very foolishly." In their present condition, they should be treated as children or wards; and it is the duty of the government to dictate to them what is best for their interest, and carry out their determinations. All promises made to them should be fulfilled to the letter; otherwise, they lose confidence, which is not easily regained.

The most eligible method of payment, as it regards goods and provis-

ions, would be, that the interpreter, or some other person connected with the service, should act as Indian storekeeper, into whose custody the goods, provisions, farming implements, tools, &c., intended for them, should be placed, and paid out as necessity might require, *per capita*, upon a pay-roll, and receipted when the payment was completed. This would prevent that inequality and waste now experienced. The present method is to pay out the provisions and goods at once in bulk to the different bands according to their relative strength, and they divide among themselves. Great injustice is frequently done in this way. The prominent and more influential get the largest share; and hence there are almost daily complaints to the agent by those who have received little or nothing. All this difficulty and injustice would be obviated under the plan proposed.

As before suggested, the seven bands of Mendawakanton Sioux who are paid annuities at this sub-agency embrace but a small portion of the Sioux nation. The other bands live remote, high up the St. Peter's river, and reaching over to and west of the Missouri. With those Indians we have but little intercourse, and of course my knowledge of their condition and prospects is limited. For the purpose of obtaining information in reference to them, I addressed a letter to an intelligent trader at Lacqueparlé, on the St. Peter's, three hundred miles above its mouth, to furnish the desired information. He has most obligingly done so. He is a member of the Legislative Council of Minnesota, has been for several years at this trading post, and from youth acquainted with Indian character. His statements are reliable, and I cannot do better than give an extract from his letter in making up this report. He says:

"The few remarks that I shall make in this communication, hastily prepared, will have reference to the bands who live on the upper St. Peter's, with whom I am the best acquainted. You are doubtless aware, from reliable sources of information, and from written communications made to the superintendency, that, during the greater part of last winter, the sufferings and privations of nearly all the upper bands were extreme, in consequence of the almost entire failure of the buffalo; and although it cannot be said, so far as I know, that any of them perished for want of food, still there is no doubt whatever that quite a number of them have since died in consequence of these privations and by diseases induced by long suffering from want of proper food. The scarcity of the buffalo arose from various causes, but the principal one was the burning of the prairies over an extent of hundreds of miles of country, thereby causing those animals to diverge from their usual range during a greater part of the winter season.

"It was not until late in February and March that the upper Wahpateons and Sissetons were enabled to make a few scant hunts. They are very poor indeed, in an unusually miserable condition, from the scantiness of grass and the severity of the season, affording but little food, and that by no means of a nutritious quality. This, however, prolonged their existence, and enabled the bands who had got off to a great distance to return, after the melting of the snow, to their corn crops, which they always hide in the ground near the villages where they plant.

"The efforts made during last winter at Washington to obtain an appropriation for the relief of the upper Indians having failed, his Excellency Governor Ramsey assumed the responsibility of ordering a considera-

ble supply of ammunition, &c., to be distributed among them early last spring. This, together with the little aid which the traders could give at the time, was of the utmost benefit to these poor, destitute people, and they were very grateful for the relief. Nothing could have been more wise or opportune on the part of the governor. While obeying the dictates of humanity in aiding these people in their extreme need, it was wise policy to awaken whatever feelings of gratitude they may have, and predispose them to entertain friendly feelings towards the government, which I have no hesitation in saying I believe they now generally do.

"The sufferings last winter aroused them to the necessity of cultivating the earth to a greater extent than usual; and many of them have enlarged their fields somewhat, and a few have made unusual exertions in planting corn. The prospects were, not long since, that they would gather quite a large crop—much more than last year. But I am sorry now to say that these expectations will only be realized by the Wahpateons of Lacqueparlé. The Sissetons, having been visited some time ago by a large horde of the Yanktons, Pah Baxa, (Cut Beards,) and Indians of the Great Plains, who subsist entirely by the chase of the buffalo, have had a very large portion of their corn eaten up by these erratic bands, who are, and always have been, a great burden and cause of discouragement to those who for many years have planted corn, more or less, and who latterly have been induced by the counsels of traders and missionaries to gradually enlarge their fields. These Indians have already received a few ploughs from the government, through the representations and by the urgent solicitations of the missionaries and the traders. The bands at Lacqueparlé have made good use of those they received; but the Sissetons still continue to have prejudice against the plough, although they are becoming feeble, and I have no apprehension but they will soon be induced to use them with success. Some of them will do so next year; so they have promised. They are greatly in need of hoes, and urge upon every occasion that their wants be mentioned to their 'Father,' with a request that he will supply them if possible. If anything can be done in this respect, I beg leave to ask you to press its necessity upon the department. Three or four hundred hoes, or more, would be required to make the present of essential service in its distribution, and to prevent ill-feeling among them, and they should be procured early enough next spring, so as to be used in planting.

"The few general remarks that I shall endeavor to add may be equally applicable to the present condition of all of our Indians. There is no difficulty in discovering that an entire radical change is required. The present system in every respect will not do. This almost any unprejudiced person will admit who understands the subject, but it is much more difficult to suggest a remedy.

"The views of most of those who have lived the longest among the Indians agree in one respect—that is, that no great or beneficial change can take place in their condition until the general government has made them amenable to local laws—laws which will punish the evil-disposed, and secure the industrious in their property and individual rights, and thereby give them the greater inducements to acquire property, and with it those many and increasing wants which are not only the consequence, but the safe grounds, of civilization. Laws of this nature would also strike at the very root of one of the greatest evils which exist among them—their sys-

tem of communism. It retards everything like progress in the desire of bettering their condition. The most energetic and well-disposed cannot rise above the vagabond and worthless. Indeed, they are generally the best off who do the least, if they have a tact for begging or keeping their neighbors in apprehension. If the Indians could once be made industrious, the greatest difficulty would be surmounted. How, then, can this be accomplished, unless each man is secured the fruits of his labor?—and that can only be effected by the legislative enactment of the general government.

“The present system of farming, it is now admitted by most persons, is entirely wrong. It surely never was the intention to labor for the Indians, instead of teaching and showing them how labor was to be done. Perhaps in this respect no great change can be effected with the old men and grown-up persons of the present generation; but a wide field will doubtless be opened up for the advancement of the young and rising generation, by means of manual-labor schools. With the Indian race, perhaps, more than any other, industry should go hand in hand with mental culture. It is useless to talk of regeneration or change of heart, so long as they are permitted to prowl about a set of lazy, listless vagabonds. In that state, occasional bursts of excitement are absolute necessities of existence. The hunter’s life supplies this; and it is antagonistic to anything like quiet industry, or even the first approach to civilization.

“It has been urged by those who have no faith in the civilization of the Indian, that he is incapable of a high order of cultivation. Admitting this, will any person deny that he is able to attain to that degree of improvement which enables a man to cultivate the earth, keep cattle, and thereby procure food and clothing, and be a far better, and quieter, and more useful neighbor on a frontier than a wild hunter, who, although he may feast to-day, may be compelled to-morrow to beg or to steal from his white neighbor?”

In conclusion, permit me to remark that I feel a deep interest in the welfare of these poor, degraded, unenlightened Indians, and believe some plan may be devised to elevate them in the scale of human intelligence. My feeble aid will not be wanting in promoting any system which may be adopted tending to that result.

Respectfully submitted.

NATHANIEL McLEAN,
Indian Sub-agent.

His Excellency ALEXANDER RAMSEY,
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Paul,
Minnesota Territory.*

No. 16.

Fourth annual report of the female mission school at Kaposia.

Miss Jane S. Williamson has given diligent attention to teaching the Dakota females of this village, whenever any could be found willing to be taught. Within the year she has had school about eleven months. Not including my own children, who have been taught with the others, the

whole number of scholars is twenty-nine. Counting sixty days as a quarter, the average attendance for the first quarter is $4\frac{1}{2}$; for the second, 7; for the third, $8\frac{2}{3}$; and for the fourth, 8—making an average attendance of seven for 240 days.

Four can read with ease in the New Testament both in Dakota and English, write legibly, and have made some progress in mental arithmetic. Three others read both languages, but not fluently. Four read the Wowapiwaken, who have not learned English, and write on slates. Nine others spell and read in Woonspé. Most of the remaining nine can spell readily in three letters.

Besides teaching them to spell, read, &c., ten have been taught to knit, and all who attend with any regularity are instructed in sewing.

All evince good capacity for learning, and, when they attend regularly, make good progress. But the same cause which has been mentioned in years past as impeding education among the Mendawakanton Sioux has, during the past year, been acting with increased power; and, until the money for which they are contending shall be in some way disposed of, there is little encouragement here to attempt teaching any except such as are boarded for that purpose. Two have been boarded by Mr. Robertson, the farmer for this village, and four in my own family, during the whole time they have been instructed. Of these, one has been under instruction but a short time. The other five read both Dakota and English. Those who live with their Indian relatives have, during the year, attended school, on an average, less than thirty days each. Three of the scholars are of mixed blood; the others are full-blooded Dakotas. Nine of them have been baptized. The church here contains nine native communicants in good standing. The average attendance of natives on public worship on Sabbath days is 16.

THOS. S. WILLIAMSON,
Missionary of A. B. C. F. M.

To Colonel N. McLEAN,
Indian Sub agent.

Names and progress of the scholars.

First class consists of four: Mary Aupetuiyotenkewin, Marian Robertson, Sarah Wawigohizé, Rosalie Anghee, read the Scriptures both in Dakota and English, write legibly, and study mental arithmetic. Two of them have read through McGuffey's Second Reader.

Second class, three: Nanny Winejewin, Fanny Hopistind, Meggi Sueigenkewin, read in Dakota, Wowapiwaken, and spell and read in Town's First Reader, in English, and are learning to write.

Third class, four: Sopuja Wajininepewin, Phebe Tiregenbijegewar, Margaret Culbertson, Hoper Tanke, read Wowapiwaken understandingly, and are learning to write.

Fourth class, nine: Cinkpe Meza, Henzetuwin, Oda Wirxtemma, Wakenhsewin, Merpiyagirtin, Mazaxinawin, Cajeyeta, Naxleyeta, Tanke Wakanholi, spell well, and read Dakota Woonspé.

Fifth class, nine: Ocici, Iyotankehuewin, Mespiaoto, Dentre, Mespriyoicicewin, Konza, Juini, Susan Wartegenkewin, Zitkeheziwin, are learning to spell; most of them spell readily in words of three or four letters.

The fifteenth annual report of the mission station at Lacqueparlé, September, 1850.

Laboring at this station the past year: S. R. Riggs, A. M., and M. N. Adams, missionaries; Jonas Pettijohn, farmer; with Mrs. Riggs, Mrs. Adams, and Mrs. Pettijohn.

For four and a half months during the winter a day school at the mission was taught, chiefly by Mrs. Adams. The whole number of scholars enrolled was upwards of sixty; but the average attendance was only twelve. Last autumn we employed a native teacher at one of the villages here for nearly two months, with some success. Various circumstances have combined to prevent our sustaining a school this summer. Two Indian children—a boy and a girl—supported in the families of Mr. Pettijohn and Mr. Adams, have learned to talk English, and made considerable progress in learning to read it also.

During the winter we kept up a Sabbath school, with an average attendance of eighteen. Our religious services in the Dakota language have been attended about as well as in former years. The same causes which we mentioned last year have been in operation to prevent any sensible increase of interest in religion or education. We have long hoped that a treaty for the purchase of land, made with these Indians, might be the means of removing some of the present difficulties, and of opening the way for this people to make more rapid upward progress.

The Indians at this place have raised excellent corn crops this season. In ploughing their fields last spring we gave them what assistance we could by working one of the mission horses with theirs. Some of them, too, had the use of a yoke of Mr. McLeod's oxen. The whole crop raised here this year will exceed two thousand bushels.

Last fall we encouraged and assisted the men at one of the villages to put up a log storehouse, which answers them a very good purpose in keeping their corn and other things; but, before they can make much progress here in building, they must of necessity have some other means of making plank than the whip saw: it is too hard a way of making boards for an Indian. There is what is thought to be a very good mill-seat in the neighborhood of the villages, to occupy which, on their behalf, in the event of a treaty, arrangements ought to be made.

We have in several former reports urged the necessity of bringing these Dakotas under the restraints of law; but on the part of some persons there seems to be manifested a great repugnance to interfering with the "natural liberty" of an Indian, and a practical unbelief in the idea that he can ever become anything better. True liberty cannot give me the right to destroy my neighbor's property, or take away his life with impunity. And yet this is the liberty of the savage state; it is a state of fear—a state of bondage, of slavery. But this is the state of freedom with which some men hesitate to interfere. So long as this non-interference policy is pursued, the motives for his becoming a different man are withheld from the Indian. They need to be restrained—they must be restrained—before the idea of property can produce its full effect upon them. Their war parties, their lying in wait for their enemies, and their murdering, scalping, and barbarously treating women and children, ought to be

stopped at once: it can be done. The *scalp-dance* should not be permitted; to dance it should be made a punishable offence. This would interfere with no *natural right*, but only with the *wrongs* of the human family. God never gave to any man the right, day after day, and night after night, for months, to dance around the scalp of his fellow-man. Last spring this was done at Kaposia, almost within sight and hearing of the capital of Minnesota; and it is being done now at Big Stone lake. It ought not to be borne with. If dancing this scalp-dance were made a penal offence, it would tend powerfully to stop the war parties. It is known that in most cases the taking of scalps is the great motive for killing their enemies. The cause of humanity demands this interference of our government. If we fail to put a stop to such savage customs, we fail of fulfilling the great objects which God and the best interests of the human family require of us.

Very truly, yours,

S. R. RIGGS.

To Maj. N. McLEAN,
Indian Sub-Agent.

No. 18.

KAPOSIA, *September 1, 1850.*

DEAR SIR: Since the last annual report of this station, little has been done in the way of education.

The school under my care has averaged six—whole number enrolled, twenty.

The determination on the part of the Indians seems settled not to avail themselves of the means of education until certain difficulties between them and the government are settled.

I must say that I am of the opinion that the present effort to educate the Sioux is little better than a waste of time and money.

No system of education is of much importance to an Indian that does not embrace a knowledge of some useful occupation, and continued training to habits of industry.

I see no want of capacity on the part of Indian youths to acquire knowledge; but, on the contrary, they manifest an exceeding quickness of apprehension.

I am satisfied that, under the influence of judicious manual-labor schools, they may become an industrious, respectable community.

Yours, truly,

S. M. COOK.

N. McLEAN, Esq.,
Sub-Agent, St. Peter's.

No. 19.

RED WING, *August 29, 1850.*

SIR: The following report of the Indian school at this station is respectfully submitted:

Since the 18th of July, when I commenced my labors here, above 40

Ex.—8

children, of suitable age, have attended school more or less of the time. Of this number 17, viz: 12 boys and 5 girls, have been very regular in their attendance. The girls have been employed in the field during their late corn-gathering, which has been the cause of many of them being absent from school a part of the time.

Very great advancement could not be expected of them so soon, but I am happy to report that those who attend regularly are making commendable progress. At present, all are instructed in reading and spelling. The more advanced are also taught writing and vocal music.

I have made considerable effort to introduce regular school hours, and to secure punctual attendance, and have succeeded to some extent; perhaps as well as I ought to expect for the time employed. With habits of order and punctuality well established, which I shall endeavor by all means to secure, I see nothing to prevent the dear youth in my care from making rapid progress in acquiring knowledge. In intellectual capacity I do not consider the North American Indian inferior to the Anglo-Saxon race.

J. W. HANCOCK, *Teacher.*

N. McLEAN, Esq.,

United States Indian Sub-Agent.

No. 20.

OAK GROVE, *September 6, 1850.*

DEAR SIR: It is with depression of spirit that we review our labors at this station during the past year.

During one third of the year the Indians have been absent from this village.

On account of the opposition of the Indians to education, (which increases just in proportion to the increase of the unexpended sum of money which is due them from our government,) and on account of the absence of apparent good resulting from our long continued efforts in this department of our labor, we have discontinued our Dakota school. We have, however, a small English school at the station, taught by Miss S. A. Wilson. The number of children in regular attendance is ten, four of which are our own; the other six are the children of our neighbors of mixed blood.

We have continued our efforts to teach the saving doctrines of Christianity, as we have had opportunity, but with very limited success. Except when the Indians have been absent from the station, we have held public religious services in the Dakota language every Sabbath forenoon, with a native attendance varying from two to twelve. The average attendance has been a small fraction less than seven.

Our afternoon services in English have also been continued through the year, and since December (with a few exceptions) we have held our meetings alternately at the station and at or near Fort Snelling. Two white males, who are in the employ of our government as Indian farmers, have been received into the communion of the church on the profession of their faith in Christ.

Early in the spring a few native women manifested a considerable con-

tern for the salvation of their souls, and two or three who had never before attended came to our meetings. This fact, I suppose it was, excited anew the opposition of those who hate reform, and several of the chief men of the band in assembly resolved, "That, whereas the missionaries are possessing themselves of the money which is due us from the United States, (the \$5,000,) if any of the natives attend the religious meetings of the missionaries, they shall be stripped of their clothes, whipped, and have their names struck off from the list of the band.* Soon after this occurrence two of those who had previously been in the habit of coming to us for religious instruction, as well as those who had lately commenced, forsook us. The native members of our church, however, are still constant in their attendance on the public means of grace, and appear to run with patience the Christian course, in the midst of many temptations and not a little physical as well as mental suffering for Christ's sake. He who carries the lambs in his bosom we trust has held them up.

On the whole, we have felt more disheartened in our labors for those miserable Indians during the past year than ever before; yet, although "hope has long been deferred," we do not entirely yield to despair. Our motto to-day is, "Faint, yet pursuing." It is an encouraging fact that they still abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors.

May a merciful Lord yet cause the light of religion and civilization to shine upon them, and quicken them to civil and religious life.

Respectfully yours,

GIDEON H. POND.

Maj. N. McLEAN.

No. 21.

TRAVERSE DES SIOUX, *August 27, 1850.*

DEAR SIR: The last annual report of this station says, "No war has been among our Indians the past year." But about the time that was written, a party composed of Indians from this place and the Warpekute village, on Cannon river, when hunting near the head of the Des Moines, were attacked and 19 of them killed. By whom this was done, the Dakotas do not certainly know; but they think their father, the President, might ascertain if he wished, and punish the murderers: and they feel that he is under obligation to do this, since he does not allow them to take the tomahawk in their own hands. These Indians have not gone to war for the purpose of plunder, as some of their brethren sometimes do, and if protected they could easily be induced to live in peace.

The health of this neighborhood, during the past year, has been much as common.

Since our last annual report there has been no spirituous liquor of consequence among the Indians here. Hence they have had no murders or serious feuds among themselves. Some of these red men feel much obliged to the government for preventing the traffic in intoxicating fluid, yet they think they see some inconsistency in their Father in this—

* That is, they shall not share in the annuities.

that his white children may make, traffic in, and drink an article which his red children may not touch.

During the year under review, we have accomplished nothing in teaching letters. We cannot yet persuade the people to send their children to us for instruction. We frequently receive mails, and occasionally are able to give the Indians interesting information. We teach our own children, and thereby testify to our high sense of the value of knowledge. Some of the people feel that ours is the wise course, and long for the removal of the obstacles to the general dissemination of knowledge among themselves. But hitherto, although many have taken practically a stand in favor of education, no one has practically maintained it.

The main obstacles to education among these Indians are perhaps two: fear of the supernatural power of the medicine men, and the apprehension that their educators will manage to get the Dakota's money for their services. The former of these obstacles, though declining and destined to perish, is still of considerable strength, and will exert an influence for a long time to come, the training and circumstances of the Dakotas both tending to this result. The pecuniary difficulty is, I suppose, well understood. The speedy employment of the \$5,000 annually of the Medawakanton Dakotas in the necessary accommodations for, and support of, a Boarding School, I suppose would remove it to the other side of the scale.

The same arguments which influence the Indian against learning to read, are of avail in keeping him from learning anything else that pertains to civilization. But, notwithstanding, in teaching agriculture we have some encouragement. A number of the men are learning to plough. Indeed, some of them think themselves adepts in the work, though none of them are so. Some ploughed new land for themselves last spring, from which they are now gathering a good crop. The corn crop here this year is universally good. One family will put away more than fifty, and several as much as thirty bushels. This, though a small business, is at least five times as much as these same families made seven years ago.

Mazaxa, (the chief) with a few of his men, is preparing to enlarge his field this fall.

This station has a mill, furnished by the kindness of friends, which we hope to put into operation this fall. If the experiment succeeds, we will be able to exchange with the Indians meal for corn, on terms advantageous for them and fair for us. May we not hope that this will increase their interest in agriculture, and stimulate them to improve in it?

Allow me to state a principle or two to which we adhere in our dealings with the Indians: We strive by all fair means to teach them self reliance and self respect. We hold that beggary is always a disgrace, and commonly a crime, and uniformly discourage it so far as we can, whether addressed to ourselves or others. When a number of families have employed themselves in dancing, feasting, ball playing, and card playing, for days and weeks together, with the full knowledge that the consequence will be suffering from hunger, and at the end of the time come in a body, arrayed in arms, trinkets, vermilion and feathers, and ask us for food, we uniformly excuse ourselves from giving. When the needy, from necessity, come for assistance and for relief, we give it if we can. To give in the former case seems to us like conferring a favor on vice; to refuse it in the latter would be inhumanity. There arise, however, a great many cases in which it is hard to know what is expedient.

Indians are very fond of attending at the houses of their neighbors when meals are expected. We endeavor to discourage their excessive attendance at these seasons. If we should indulge them in this, all our time and strength would be occupied with our tables, and every species of wholesome instruction be prevented. Firmness in the above respects often gives offence, but we esteem it necessary.

It has been our hope, by the introduction of the plough, and teaching the Indians to use it for themselves; by inducing them to build secure granaries, where the fruits of the field may be stored; by persuading and assisting them to erect better habitations and multiply somewhat their wants and comforts; by making them acquainted with books, especially with the Bible, and the plan of salvation through the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ;—by offering these to the Indians, “without money and without price,” we hope to make a revolution in their character and condition—to make them wiser and better, and of course happier.

Many criticisms have been passed on our work; and of this we by no means complain. We only wish those who criticise can assist us by any suggestions their superior knowledge may enable them to make.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Yours, truly,

R. HOPKINS,
Missionary of the A. B. C. F. M.

To the Hon. N. McLEAN,
Indian Sub-Agent, St. Peter's.

No. 22.

KAPOKIA, MINNESOTA TERRITORY, *September 25, 1850.*

SIR: As I have been under appointment as physician for a part of the Medawakantonwan Sioux during most of the year past, though I am not so at present, perhaps it is my duty to make a report as such, and I beg leave to submit the following:

I have endeavored to attend to all applications for medicines, for Sioux, who were needing medicine or medical assistance. When requested to do so, I have not only furnished medicine, but visited and prescribed for the sick, unless they were attended by the conjurers. When the sick have lacked suitable diet, as is often the case, and have informed us of the fact, my family has furnished that also. I have also furnished medicine by the quantity for those residing at a distance, and given directions for using it.

No severe epidemic has prevailed among these Indians for a year past, but the children during the summer have suffered much from diarrhœa and dysentery, and teething, and a number of adults from the former disease; and except when the Indians are out of the neighborhood, on their hunts, the applications for medicine average two or three a day.

One old man died from the intemperate use of ardent spirits, and one, as you know, was killed by the Chippewas. All the other deaths which I can remember to have heard of among the people of this village, within a year, are of some three or four small children, most of whom died last win-

ter when they were away hunting, so that I had no opportunity of attending them or knowing the nature of their disease.

THOMAS S. WILLIAMSON, *M. D.*

To Major N. McLEAN,
Indian Sub-Agent.

No. 23.

SAINT PETER'S, *September 23, 1850.*

SIR: As superintendent of farming for the Medawakanton Sioux, it becomes my duty to report to you all the facts in relation to our operations for the past year, which is respectfully submitted.

Mr. A. Robertson, farmer for Little Crow's band, reports sixty-five acres of land ploughed—the yield estimated at about thirty bushels per acre, although not more than one-third of the crop has been put in sack. The Indians were short of provisions, and lived on green corn for nearly two months, in which time they consumed about two-thirds of the entire crop. Last winter Mr. Robertson cut rail timber to fence the corn-field; but before he could get the rails hauled, a flood came and swept away all the timber and his own garden and fence. He has made from thirty-five to forty tons of hay for the Indian horses and his own cattle used on the farm. He assisted the chief to build a log-house twenty-two by seventeen feet, for which you furnished a cooking-stove, and has assisted the Indians in making a temporary fence round the corn field, a pasture for the horses, and several small storehouses.

Mr. John Bush, for Red Wing's band, reports fifty-five acres ploughed, yielding full thirty bushels per acre. He has assisted to build five log-cabins, made three hundred rails to repair fence, and four hundred for scaffolding; has cut fifteen tons of hay for the Indian horses. Much of his time has been employed in hauling wood, rails, poles, and hay.

Mr. H. Mooers, for Black Dog's band, reports forty acres ploughed, and thinks it has yielded thirty bushels per acre. He has cut and hauled twelve hundred rails and six hundred stakes, and thoroughly repaired the fence. He assisted in building five log cabins, and repaired four more; hauled twenty-five loads of poles and forks for scaffolds for drying corn, and has stacked forty tons of hay.

The other farmers have not made any report for the past year. Lake Calhoun band, for whom Mr. M. S. Titus is farmer, and Good Road's band, for whom Mr. P. Quinn is farmer, have lost their entire crops of corn, owing to the obstinacy of the Indians in persisting to plant in the valley of the St. Peter's, on land subject to inundation.

Little Six's, the largest band, lost about one-half of their crop by the flood.

Wabashaw's band have raised some corn, but not enough for their winter supply. The farmer, Mr. Brunel, was dismissed for intemperance, and Mr. Francis Lapoint appointed in his place. It is to be hoped that this band will be able to raise as much corn as they want next year, as a new field some distance from the river bottom has been broken up.

The blacksmiths have reported a list of implements for the use of the Indians interested in the treaty of 29th September, 1837.

Mr. Victor Chatel reports having made new articles of rat and fish spears, axes, door-latches, and fixtures, &c., to the number in the whole of 2,896, and guns, &c., repaired to the number of 2,360.

Mr. Oliver Rassicot reports, for six months' work, new articles to the number of 902, and repairs to the number of 578. Supposing the following six months to be equal, something over 8,000 pieces have been made and mended by the two smiths in one year.

The farming has been carried on much the same as last year. I cannot perceive any more industry among them than formerly. In fact, the men appear more inclined to play the gentleman. I have seen several walking about with umbrellas, or ladies' parasols, over their heads, while their wives were hoeing corn under the burning rays of the sun, without any protection. Ask the man why he does not assist to work, the answer generally is, "Will you pay me for it?" One of the farmers furrowed some ground, but some of the Indians forbade him, called him a fool, and told him it was a waste of land and time in making furrows. It is very difficult to get them to thin out their corn when it stands too thick, and they abuse us when we attempt to do so. Scattered as they are, it is almost impossible to make their farming very profitable with only one farmer for a band. The Indians expect him to do most of their work, and are always complaining because he cannot satisfy them all. Nothing permanent or profitable can be done for them until each family has a field, and is protected from the abuses of bad and indolent fellows, who steal half the produce of the farms.

The farmers were all furnished with good new ploughs last spring, and the land was well ploughed. The Indians would have raised much more corn this year than formerly, had it not been for the high water, which destroyed probably one third of the crop. The Indians are straining to imitate the customs of the white people around them. They will not eat corn unless they are starving, and often sell all their corn for flour and pork or fresh beef. I have known dishes of boiled corn handed to Indian children, when they knocked the dish into the fire and cried for bread. The men, as soon as the annuity provisions are eaten, go about from house to house begging and borrowing flour and pork, and eat but little corn. Six out of the seven bands have been furnished with lumber to make roofs for their houses as an experiment. Some of them, at first, said they would not have any lumber, but now they are all clamorous, and want ten times more than can be purchased. The two cooking-stoves you purchased for two of the chiefs will be used, I think, to advantage.

I cannot suggest any change in the farming. It is expected and hoped that the government will make a treaty to purchase these lands and settle the Indians permanently, when the farming and mechanical operations for all the tribe can be carried on together.

The 100 horses purchased the last spring have more than one half of them died since they got into the Indians' hands, and I fear there will not be ten of them alive next spring. It was a useless expenditure of \$6,000. They could not all get a horse apiece, and those that did not get any are dissatisfied, and every few days a complaint is entered against some one for killing a horse. I suppose they will keep on killing as long as they have a horse left. The rice crop is a total failure this year. There are but few cranberries. These added considerably to their support; but as the

government has ordered provisions to be purchased, all the losses and failures will be remedied, and they cannot suffer this winter. The greater part of the corn, I fear, will be sold, as heretofore, as soon as received.

To close my report, I must say the Indians have behaved remarkably well in the temperance cause. Instances of drunkenness are rare. Much praise is due to his Excellency, Governor Ramsey, and yourself, for the earnest temperance advice which has been given them, and all the friends of humanity rejoice at the change in the habits of these Indians.

Your most obedient servant,

P. PRESCOTT,

Superintendent of Farming for Sioux.

To Major N. M'LEAN,

Indian Sub-Agent, St. Peter's.

No. 24.

SANDY LAKE SUB-AGENCY,
Minnesota Territory, October 14, 1850.

SIR: According to the regulations and requirements of the Indian department, I have the honor to submit to you this, my first annual report. Although I have been connected with this sub-agency but a short time, yet I trust my statements and suggestions will not be without use to your excellency, the department, and of benefit to the Chippewa Indians. The short time since I entered upon the duties of my office, together with the failure of my predecessor to turn over any papers or documents (with the exception of a copy of the revised regulations) belonging to the office, has placed it out of my power to be as well informed as I could wish and hope to become in future.

In compliance with orders of July last from your excellency, I have removed this sub-agency from La Pointe, in the State of Wisconsin, and temporarily located it at Sandy lake, Minnesota Territory, and have succeeded in the erection and completion of all necessary buildings pertaining thereto. The expenses incurred about these buildings have been much more than they would have been, could I have procured teams to aid in the work; but, owing to the extraordinary high water, and its long continuance upon the Mississippi and its tributaries in this region, it was impossible to procure any. The expense that will be necessarily incurred in erecting the permanent buildings for this agency, would seem to require great care in its location and selection; not alone in a pecuniary point, but for the benefit and satisfaction of the Indians, who are so apt to become dissatisfied and troublesome at frequent removals. The mineral wealth on the northwestern shore of Lake Superior has already attracted considerable attention from the enterprising pioneers of our country, and the time is not far distant when government will be called upon to treat for these and other portions in the vicinity of lands well adapted to agricultural purposes, not yet ceded to the government by the Chippewa Indians; which, with other causes (a statement of which would render this report too lengthy for the time I have allotted for its completion,) would seem to render it advisable to purchase all their lands east of the Mississippi river, and locate the agency west of the river, and as near the Sioux lands as

practicable, which would have a great influence in preventing the frequent, fatal and disagreeable hostile attacks made by these respective tribes upon each other (of some of which of recent occurrence I have already informed you,) as the influence of the agent might effectually prevent their occurrence at a time most needed, and when distance might render his efforts unavailing.

I understand that an order issued by the President, and transmitted through the usual channels to my predecessor, directing him to inform them that they would be called upon at an early day to remove, was duly imparted to them in March last, which created much excitement and dissatisfaction. They claim that at the time the treaty was concluded, the understanding was that they would not be required to remove until the present generation should pass away. This dissatisfaction has gradually subsided; and I doubt not, that if this information had been imparted to them at a much earlier time, the removal could have been effected without difficulty; while, at the same time, I am of opinion that those in Michigan, and upon the Wisconsin, Chippewa, and St. Croix rivers would have obstinately remained behind. These Indians are infested with persons who make the sale of intoxicating drinks their business. As the Indians suffer greatly from this baneful traffic, their removal is greatly retarded thereby.

I would respectfully call the attention of the department, through your excellency, to the present arrangement for the employment of blacksmiths for the Indians at my sub-agency. During a portion of the year these blacksmiths are without employment. I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that the services of the assistant blacksmiths be dispensed with, and the amount of their salaries be appropriated to the purchase of iron and other necessary materials. I believe the remaining employes would be able to perform all the labor required.

Owing to the removal of this sub-agency, our farmers have not been able to raise as large crops as could be desired. This is more particularly to be regretted, as the extraordinarily high water of the season has spoiled the crop of wild rice, upon which the Indians depend to a great extent for subsistence. The subject of agriculture will require great attention in future, as the Indians must depend on that resource the more as their hunting grounds decrease in extent.

I do not transmit copies of reports from the various missions under my sub-agency, as reports have not been received from the missionary stations, with one exception. They will be transmitted when received.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. WATROUS,

United States Indian Sub-Agent.

His Excellency ALEX. RAMSEY,

Superintendent of Indian Affairs,

and Governor of Minnesota Territory.

No. 25.

GRAND RAPIDS, November, 1850.

The undersigned, in presenting another annual statement of the condition of the colony of Ottawa Indians at the Griswold mission, in the State

of Michigan, is much gratified in being able to say the establishment continues to furnish evidence that it is promotive of good.

The number of families and individuals connected with it has increased to about two hundred and sixteen, several of the Pottawatomies having recently joined themselves to our band.

It is still difficult to keep the children confined much, or with any regularity, to school. As many as twenty, however, have attended during the last year, and have made very perceptible improvement in the rudiments of learning; and not only many of these, but the adults also, now unite in the responsive parts of the services of the church. Two children and two adults have been baptized within the year by the resident teacher and missionary, the Rev. James Selkrig. The services of this gentleman have been in various ways very beneficial to the colony. Four have died, two adults and two children.

The old colonists are evidently becoming more and more favorably disposed to the habits, pursuits and customs of civilized life; have permanent dwellings, instead of temporary tents; use chairs, tables and beds, and conduct themselves in most particulars like their white neighbors. The most notorious drunkards among them have been reformed. The good example of the Ottawas has not been without its influence on those who more recently have come among them, the latter having discontinued in part their Pagan practices, and frequently attending Christian worship. Good crops of corn, potatoes, beans, oats and vegetables, have been raised by the members of the mission during the past year, and the expectation is reasonably indulged that every year will find them more and more usefully identified with the community with which they are at present associated.

Respectfully submitted:

FRANCIS CUMING,
Superintendent, &c., &c.

SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

No. 26.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA,
September 16, 1850.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith so much of the language of the Indians of California as I have been able to procure. My greatest difficulty has been in obtaining proficient interpreters. None, of the many who profess to know the language of the Indians, understand more of it than enough to trade with them, or to transact the most ordinary business. Even those who have spent years among them are greatly at fault when they attempt to interpret the language beyond common business transactions.

Since the third day of June last I have traversed more than eight hundred miles through the great valley of the Sacramento, and along the tributaries of that river which take their rise in mountains of the Sierra Nevada. In my route I visited ten distinct tribes of Indians, besides

meeting many wandering families or communities, gathering acorns, pine-seeds, &c., for subsistence.

The men and children are in general naked. Some of them have obtained a few articles of clothing from the whites, such as shirts, handkerchiefs, &c., of which they seem quite proud. The females are also without any covering, except what they call the "*Du-eh*," or breech clout. This is nothing more than a bunch of grass, or rushes, about one foot in length, suspended from a belt or girdle around the waist, in front and in rear.

I could discover no distinction in their customs, habits of life, or their general language, which could induce me to think they were not originally the same people. Indeed, their customs and manner of living are, in many respects, almost identical. Their huts or lodges are constructed in the same manner. They do not *scalp* those whom they kill, but universally throw the dead body into water. They all burn the dead of their own people, and their manner of mourning for lost friends is the same—that is, the nearest of kin cover themselves, hair, head, face, arms, and body down to the waist, with black tar, or pitch, which is permitted to remain upon them until worn off by time.

They all subsist on roots and grass-seeds from the earth, acorns and pine-seeds from the trees, and fish from the streams. Acorns, nuts, and small fish are gathered in great quantities, and stored in magazines prepared for the purpose. They universally lay up enough of these things for two years' subsistence, and thereby guard against a failure in the future crop of the coming season.

The acorns and nuts are ground into a kind of flour, which is done by means of mortars or deep basins drilled into rocks. Into these the acorns and nuts are placed and pounded as fine as flour. Before baking, the Indians not unfrequently mix with the flour berries of various kinds. All this is the work of the squaws, or, as they call them, "*Mo ha'es*." Indeed, the same general characteristics mark the whole of the tribes in the great valley of the Sacramento and its adjacent territory.

They have an indefinite idea of their right to the soil, and they complain that the *pale faces* are overrunning their country and destroying their means of subsistence. The immigrants are trampling down and feeding their grass and the miners are destroying their fish dams. For this they claim some remuneration—not in money, for they know nothing of its value, but in the shape of clothing and food.

In my last communication I recommended the establishment of about three depots in the great valley of the Sacramento for the purpose of furnishing the various tribes in that region with subsistence and clothing. Their wants are few, and little of clothing and something to sustain life upon will readily satisfy them. This policy I believe would not only be the most economical for the government and vastly more beneficial to the Indians than annuities in money, but must be by far the best means of reaching the wild mountain Indians and bringing them into a state of civilization. I have been informed by Americans, who have lived for years on the borders of the mountains, that where the mountain Indians have been well treated by the whites they return to their tribes with sentiments of the highest regard for the Americans. There is, however, a class of men here who, as I have been informed, shoot down Indians wherever they meet them. This is not only cruel to the Indians, but

works great injury to the whites. The known custom of the Indians is revenge, and their vengeance frequently falls upon the innocent. They must be avenged, and their best friends often pay the penalty of the rash or reckless acts of others. It seems to be a kind of religious sentiment with them to have "blood for blood."

The Indians of the valley of the Sacramento are not a warlike people. They possess no *war clubs*, scalping knife, or tomahawks, so universally used by the Indians east of the Sierra Nevada; they are mostly indolent, docile, and tractable, but many of them are thievish; they are fond of dress of almost any kind, and readily learn the more simple arts of agriculture.

The construction of their huts and villages is much the same. They are constructed by excavating the earth the size of the room or lodge they desire, some five feet deep; this is covered over with a dome-like top several feet above the surface of the earth; in the centre of the roof or dome there is generally an aperture or opening, which serves the double purpose of admitting light and letting the smoke escape. This is the only opening in the lodge except the entrance, which is in the side, and barely large enough to admit a human body. Through this they enter feet foremost on their hands and knees. When once inside, these lodges are not uncomfortable. The thickness of the earth over them prevents the sun from penetrating them in the hot season, while in the colder seasons they protect them from the winds.

The names of the tribes which I have visited in the great valley of the Sacramento and adjacent mountains are as follows :

The Hocks.—This tribe reside upon the celebrated Hock farm, and near to the residence of Captain Sutter. They number from 80 to 100.

The Yubas.—Located at the mouth, or rather the junction of the Yuba with the Feather river, and number about 180.

The O-lip-pas.—Located on Feather river, about thirty-two miles above its mouth. This tribe numbers about 90 or 100.

The Bogas.—Located a short distance above the O-lip-pas, on the opposite side of the river, and number about 70.

The Ho lil-li-pah.—Reside at the base of the mountains near to Feather river, and number about 150.

The Erskins.—On Butte creek, near Neal's rancho, and number about 80

The Ma-chuck-nas.—Reside in the valley near to Potter's rancho, and number about 90.

The Crush-nas.—This tribe is located in the mountains, on the waters of the South Yuba. They number about 600.

The Ta-gus.—Are also in the mountains above the head-waters of Butte creek; number unknown.

The Nim-sus.—Also in the mountains, not far distant from the Ta-gus tribe. The numbers of this tribe I could not obtain.

Within the short period since the occupancy of this country by the whites, the red man has been fast fading away. Many have died with disease, and others fled to the mountains, to enjoy for a brief period their primeval sports of hunting and fishing. Almost the entire tribes of the *Costanocs* or Coast Indians have passed away. Of the numerous tribes which but a few years ago inhabited the country bordering on the bay of San Francisco, scarcely an individual is left. The pale faces have taken

possession of their country and trample upon the graves of their forefathers. In an interview with a very aged Indian near the mission of Dolores, he said: "I am very old; my people were once around me like the sands of the shore—many—many. They have all passed away—they have died like the grass—they have gone to the mountains—I do not complain. The antelope falls with the arrow. I had a son—I loved him—when the pale faces came, he went away—I know not where he is. I am a Christian Indian—I am all that is left of my people—I am alone." His age, his earnestness, and decrepit condition, gave full force to his language, and I left him under the deepest sense of sympathy.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

ADAM JOHNSTON.

HON. ORLANDO BROWN,

Washington City, D. C.

No. 27.

INDIAN AGENCY, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO,
November 17, 1849.

SIR: Before adequate and just compensation can be provided by law for Indian agents in and near this Territory, the following facts must be considered.

For two weeks or more after my arrival here we were compelled to encamp near the city before we could procure a house in which to shelter, and then could obtain one only by agreeing to pay the extravagant rent of one hundred dollars per month, which I have since reduced to seventy dollars per month by submitting to the inconvenience of otherwise disposing of a portion of the premises. I offered to purchase the property at *three thousand dollars*; but the owner refused to take a cent less than *four thousand dollars*.

You are apprized that all the houses in this city are built up of adobes, with floors of dirt, and covered by spreading dirt three to six inches thick upon rough boards. You will readily conclude, and correctly too, we have dirty and leaky houses.

I have managed to procure rough plank for floors, and have laid them down without being able to get them planed. The value of the lumber, and work in repairing, exceeds two hundred dollars.

Plank and scantling, to any considerable extent, cannot as yet be obtained here; and except for the quartermaster's and commissary's departments, there is but little demand for it. The sales that have been effected have been at prices varying from fifty to eighty dollars per thousand feet. No lumber can be procured here except the pine, and that of the most inferior quality, being short, knotty, and principally sap, and this must be brought over rough roads a considerable distance; hence the price of this kind of lumber will always be extravagantly high.

Rock, for building, may be obtained within two or three miles of this place; and I am informed lime-rock, in abundance, may be found not more than five miles from Santa Fe. But in consequence of the materials, which must be transported from the States, and the extravagant

charges of laborers and mechanics, it cannot be inferred that houses can be built here as cheap as in the United States.

Upon the presumption there must be a superintendency or agency of Indian affairs permanently established in this city, I should do injustice to whoever may be the incumbent, if I fail to recommend such an appropriation as would enable him to live in quarters somewhat comfortable; and this would require an appropriation of not less than *ten thousand dollars*, provided government transportation were used in bringing to this city the materials that must be brought from the States.

Examine the following prices and rates: lumber from \$50 to \$80 per 1,000 feet; nails 25 cents per pound; brick none, but good clay; mechanics a ration a day and \$40 per month; house rent from \$600 to \$1,800 per year; wood, (pine and cedar—there is no other kind,) \$3 50 per cord, and two cords of this wood is not equal to one of oak and hickory; blacksmith, daily a ration and \$40 per month; shoeing a horse all round, \$4 to \$6; iron 20 cents per pound—increased demand would increase the price; good sound dry corn \$2 per bushel, and not abundant at that; wheat usually the same as corn per bushel; hay and fodder, (but little of either,) \$60 per ton; flour, and bacon, and pork, none, except at the commissary's; beef and mutton, 8 to 10 cents per pound; sugar 25 cents per pound; coffee 25 cents per pound; tea \$1 25 per pound, (a poor article of gunpowder;) crockery-ware and everything else in proportion.

Freights from Fort Independence to Santa Fe 10 to 12 cents per lb. Common servants from \$10 to \$15 per month and rations. Wood choppers 75 cents per cord, and a ration a day. They can cut a cord to a cord and a half a day, and then it must be brought from three to five miles from where it is cut. Board \$25 to \$40 per month and find your own lodging; and a small room may be obtained, such as it is, at from \$8 to \$10 per month.

A common pine bedstead, such as you can buy in the States for \$—, you can't purchase here for less than \$—. For seats, if you aspire to anything more than a bench, pine lumber is thrown into the shape of a chair, for which you must pay from \$2 to \$2 50; this will give the best specimen of furniture to be had here. We are so far from water, we are obliged to have it hauled to us in a wagon. Washing, if well done, \$1 50 per dozen. Common interpreter \$50 per month; one that can read and write receives from \$75 to \$100 per month.

The impression here is, that the quartermaster's bureau will show that the corn bought during the past year cost more than \$2 50 per bushel; and *I know*, until recently, since July, public animals have not received *full forage*, and animals have been lost in consequence thereof; their value should be added to the prices paid for corn.

In my former communications I have shown you how the prices of corn, wheat, fodder and hay may be legitimately reduced, and also beef; and how the lives and usefulness of your horses and mules may be prolonged, and that, too, without calling off from service to recruit them; and I hesitate not to say, such a result cannot be brought about for years to come, unless such suggestions as I have made to you are adopted.

To save you the trouble of referring back to my letters, I will state I have allusion here to the recommended protection of the Pueblo Indians, and properly stimulating and shaping their industry. With the hope that our government will extend this protection to them, I have already

advised them to throw an additional number of laborers into their fields, and increase the products of their soil by increasing the quantity of ground in cultivation.

The statement of facts given above will enable intelligent legislators to determine the proper measures of appropriation for this Territory, and the compensation that should be given to Indian agents, and with them I leave the subject.

Before committing this subject to Congress, however, I ought to have reminded you that *escorts* are positively necessary in passing from one Indian pueblo to another, and that we must go unsheltered and unfed unless transportation is afforded in which to convey tents, subsistence, and cooking-utensils. Even in travelling between Mexican villages it would be imprudent to dispense with these precautionary measures.

This being the state of things, it will be impossible for a superintendent or agent to discharge his full duty unless he can control a wagon, mules, forage, and a teamster, and subsistence for him.

If arms should be deposited in the pueblos, as I have recommended, Indian escorts and *guides* can always be procured at the cost of a few presents and subsistence.

Trade and intercourse with Indians.

Under this head it is my intention to present such views as have occurred to me after a careful examination of the act of Congress to regulate trade and intercourse with Indian tribes, and to preserve peace on the frontiers. I shall refer only to such sections as should be, in my opinion, amended.

The act of June 30, 1834, section 2. To prevent all irregularity and confusion, and that a full and perfect knowledge of the *trade* with Indians may be accurately known, and properly controlled, the *superintendent* only should have authority to grant a license. If there should be no superintendent, the agent should have the authority. A copy of every license granted should be recorded, and *fees* charged for the service, to be paid by the *licensed*. Sub-agents should have the power to *suspend* trade under a license, but the revoking power should be in the hands of the granting power.

Section 4. No one but *traders, and their assistants and families*, should be permitted to "reside" in the Indian country, except such as may be in the service of the United States, and their assistants and families. Hence the necessity of clearly defining the boundaries of each pueblo.

Section 6. There are mischievous persons from whom it would be impossible to extract a dollar; *such should not go unpunished*.

Section 7. The word "clothing" in this section may, possibly, include blankets, and some of the finest in the world are manufactured by the *wild* and other Indians; they make but few, and they are generally for sale at from five to one hundred dollars each. A kind of carpeting and other articles are manufactured by them. These people should be properly encouraged.

Section 8. Where fines cannot be collected, other penalties should be substituted.

Section 9. I would strike out the words "without the consent of such tribe."

Section 12. There are instances of encroachments, by Spaniards and Mexicans, on lands granted to Indian pueblos; haciendas have been established, and villages built up. These questions may be settled by compromise, in which it may be necessary to vest the legal titles in the Spaniards and Mexicans.

Sections 13, 14, 15, 16. Where fines and penalties cannot be collected, let offenders be punished otherwise.

Section 17. The limit of twelve months is too long—three months is quite sufficient. In the second proviso I would strike out "*three years*" and insert *three months*.

Section 20. The exceptions in favor of "the officers of the United States and troops of the service" should be extended to all alike, in the service of the United States.

Section 23. The derangements in this Territory, at the present time, are such as might justify a longer detention than "five days after the arrest and before removal."

Section 25. After the last word in this sentence, or section, I would add, *of the same pueblo or tribe*.

These amendments are required by the localities of the Indians, and the varied character of a large number of persons in this Territory. Stringent laws, promptly enforced, are demanded by the temper of the times. Let every process, and every act, be stamped with a promptitude that will arrest the consideration of offenders. *The present organization of the judiciary is not swift enough in its judgments to secure proper order and quiet in the Indian country of this Territory.*

Without a special court for this service, I am not prepared to say the end suggested in the last paragraph can be accomplished.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

J. S. CALHOUN,
Indian Agent.

ORLANDO BROWN, Esq.,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.

No. 28.

INDIAN AGENCY, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO,
March 29, 1850.

SIR: Herewith I return the section of a map of New Mexico which you enclosed to me on the 28th day of last December. You will find marked in this way [o] the various Indian pueblos located in this Territory upon the section of country which the map represents. It may be well to remember that there are two Indian pueblos below El Paso, Isleta and Socorro, and Zuñi, an Indian pueblo 88.30 miles northwest of Laguna. Of course, neither of these three pueblos could be marked upon the map. Beyond Zuñi, west, perhaps one hundred and fifty miles, the Moqui country is reached. These Indians live in pueblos, cultivate the soil to a limited extent, and raise horses, mules, sheep, and goats, and, I am informed, manufacture various articles.

I am extremely anxious to visit these Indians, but it would be unsafe to do so without a sufficient escort, as the Apaches are upon the left and the Navajoes on the right, in travelling from Zuñi to the Moquies. The Pueblo Indians are all alike entitled to the favorable and early consideration of the government of the United States. My information concerning the Moqui Indians is not of a character to justify me in making suggestions in reference to an agent or agents, further than to say, without an absolute examination by some one deputed for that purpose, information precise and reliable may not be looked for. I shall, therefore, confine my remarks to the pueblos of Zuñi, Socorro, and Isletta, and those marked upon the accompanying map.

In relation to the extent of territory belonging to each pueblo, nothing is definitely known, and can only be settled by instituting such a commission as was recommended by the President in his annual message. The lands are held under Spanish and Mexican grants, and the boundaries of the original grants have been, from time to time, enlarged to meet the wants of these Catholic Indians. They claim that this whole territory originally belonged to them, and that their supreme government was in Santa Fe; but after the conquest, this place was taken from them, and their limits fixed by authority of the conquering government. The general opinion is, not one of the pueblos have a square of less than eight miles and a half on each side. In addition to this, it is said, many of them have bought other lands near their pueblos, and perhaps others are planting on unappropriated lands. There are a few Mexican villages built, without doubt, upon lands granted to pueblos, and there are various law-suits pending between pueblos and Mexicans, as to the right of the parties to certain lands. These law-suits ought to be quieted without delay, or serious and bloody consequences will result. I must further add, that additional grants of land may be necessary for these Indians, and it should be given to them liberally near where they are now located, if vacant public lands should be found there, for it will not do to agitate the subject of their removal at this time; and it would be as dangerous to the public tranquility to compel them to a repugnant association with the people of New Mexico, as citizens of the State or Territory. Either would produce a bloody contest *at this time*.

You will notice on the returned map that I have marked, with some approach to accuracy, the seven counties of this Territory, as organized. The four great tribes, the Apaches, Comanches, Navajoes, and Utahs, make frequent incursions into these counties. All east, west, north, and south of the outer lead and red-ink lines is regarded as Indian country. On the east side of the Arkansas, the Arapahoes, Cheyennes, Kiowas, and other roving Indians are to be found. These Indians are frequently on the west side of said river, hunting, trading, and uniting with the Indians of this Territory in their wars and robberies against the people of the United States and Mexico.

The apparent dividing line between the Apaches and Utahs commences on the Rio del Norte, about latitude 37°. The land northeast and east from this point, between the pencil and red-ink lines, to the Arkansas, is accorded to the Jicarillas—a band of Apaches well mixed with Utah blood. Occasionally, every tribe of Indians is to be found in this region. East and south of the said lead and red ink lines the Apaches first, and then the Comanches, are found. I have had no means of ascertaining

the supposed dividing line between these two tribes. The Comanches are chiefly south of the Apache district, east of the Rio del Norte, and between it and the State of Texas. The strip of country running south from the county of San Miguel del Bado, known as the Apache country, is not less than three hundred miles wide. Not an inch of the Comanche country is to be found upon the returned map, although I have written upon an outer edge the word "Comanches," for the purpose of showing the direction of their localities. West of the Rio del Norte, on both sides of the supposed line between the United States and Mexico, is the Apache country proper, in my opinion; and they claim the country west to the Pimo village, and northwest to the Moqui country; and west of the pueblo of Zuñi, and between that place and the Moqui country, the Apaches think they are bounded north by the Navajoes. Thus it will be seen they claim to possess, and certainly roam over, three-fourths of a circle in and around the Territory of New Mexico.

The Navajo country is west, beyond the lines of the counties of Bernalillo, Santa Anna, and Rio Arriba, to, and perhaps passing the Rio Colorado, and running north as far as latitude 37° or 38° . All west of the Rio del Norte, not included in either of the counties of this Territory as organized, nor included in the Navajo country, to the very foot of the Sierra Nevada, and between the Navajo country and the Great Salt Lake north, is called the Utah country.

You will perceive, upon the map as marked, there is but very little of the Navajo country, less of the Utahs, and none whatever of the Comanches, but an immense strip claimed by the Apaches.

Let me remark that the Pah Utahs, who inhabit the country east of the Sierra Nevada, are Utahs proper, benumbed by cold, and enfeebled, intellectually and physically, by the food upon which they subsist—it consisting only of roots, vermin, insects of all kinds, and everything that creeps, crawls, swims, flies, or bounds, they may chance to overtake; and when these resources fail them, and they can find no stranger, they feed upon their own children. Such a people should not be permitted to live within the limits of the United States, and must be elevated in the scale of human existence or exterminated. These people never approach the confines of civilization unless they are called upon by their more adventurous and warlike brethren.

I have seized several occasions to convey to you my opinions in reference to the Apaches, Comanches, Navajoes, and Utahs—four great tribes who occupy or claim immense regions of country belonging to the United States. I may be pardoned for repeating that each of *these* tribes should be compelled to *remain* within certain fixed limits.

A square, each side of which shall measure fifty miles in length, if properly selected, would be ample—ininitely more than can be necessary to subsist these or any other equal number of people. For a time, a generous liberality should be meted out to them; and they should be instructed in agricultural pursuits.

For a time, also, you would have to feed all but the Navajoes. They can take care of themselves. Implements of husbandry, however, should be given to them.

No Indian tribe should be located nearer than one hundred miles of the line of Mexico. I have no reference here to Pueblo Indians.

These suggestions, if adopted, would require corresponding and appro-

prate military dispositions, of which it is not my privilege to speak when it may be avoided with propriety.

In reference to agents—their proper locations, numbers, and necessary expenditures, &c., &c.—I intend to record my views in a letter which I propose writing on to-morrow.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

J. S. CALHOUN,
Indian Agent.

ORLANDO BROWN, Esq.,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

No. 29.

INDIAN AGENCY, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO,
March 30, 1850.

SIR: Having, as accurately as possible, with the limited knowledge which I have been able to command, marked upon the section of a map which you enclosed to me on the 28th of December last, the various locations of the Pueblo and other Indians who were entitled to a place on said map, and made explanatory remarks in my letter of yesterday's date concerning all other Indians of this Territory, I proceed to place before you my views in relation to agents, sub-agents, their proper locations, their salaries, and expenditures generally.

In the first place, let me state, what is considered liberal pay and expenditures on account of Indian agents and agencies already established by law in the United States would be utterly insufficient in this Territory. This fact will be established by reference to the quartermaster's and commissary's returns from this place.

In travelling through this Territory you cannot safely travel alone, and when in the Indian country an escort is absolutely necessary; and, at all times, in visiting the pueblos and most of the Mexican places, you will suffer if you do not take with you a cook, cooking-utensils, subsistence, forage, tents, and all necessary transportation. Cooking-utensils must be brought from the United States.

There is no place in this Territory where it is not absolutely necessary to "corral," watch, and guard everything you may have in your possession. Even in this city, where sentinels are posted to guard corrals, horses are frequently stolen from them.

I adhere to my original opinion, that there should be a sub-agent for the present at each Indian pueblo, (twenty in number,) not including Nambé or Tesaque, near Santa Fe, which might be left to the care of the agency that may be established in this city.

To support such sub-agencies would require—

Salary	-	-	-	-	\$1,000
House-rent and wood	-	-	-	-	300
Interpreter	-	-	-	-	300
Rations for interpreter	-	-	-	-	125

1,725

20 pueblos

34,500

Implements of husbandry for twenty-two

pueblos, each \$200 - - - - \$4,400

38,900

The implements should be distributed under the direction of a general agent or superintendent, as some of the pueblos would require *more* than the \$200, and others *less*. If the government of the United States should deem it advisable to divide the pueblos into districts, I would then submit, an examination of the marked map will show there should be eight divisions, as follows:

1st district.—Taos, Picuris.

2d district.—San Juan, Pojuaque, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso.

3d district.—Jemez, Silla, (or Cia,) Santa Ana.

4th district.—Cochite, San Domingo, San Felipe, Sandia.

5th district.—Isleta, Lentis.

6th district.—(Below El Paso.)—Socorro, Isleta.

7th district.—Laguna, Acoma.

8th district.—Zuni.

You will perceive I make no arrangements for the Moqui Indians.

To support each division I would recommend—

Salary for an agent	-	-	-	-	\$1,500
Interpreter	-	-	-	-	600
House rent and stabling	-	-	-	-	300
Forage for three horses or mules	-	-	-	-	525
Horse shoeing	-	-	-	-	50
Hostler	-	-	-	-	180
Rations	-	-	-	-	120
					<hr/>
					3,275
					8
					<hr/>
					26,200

Implements for twenty-two pueblos, including

Nambé and Tesaque, \$200 each - - 4,400

30,600

NOTE.—Horses, \$350 each; aggregate, \$33,400.

This arrangement exhibits an apparent saving of \$8,300. But to secure the tranquillity of the Territory, which is certainly menaced, and to stimulate and properly direct the labor of the Pueblo Indians, the first plan is recommended as the most preferable. Adopt either plan, and in a year or two you might with propriety consolidate these agencies so as to diminish the expenses nearly one-half. But this cannot be done with propriety until order and perfect quiet are firmly established in this Territory. The Indians are far from being contented, as I have advised you in my former letters; and unless they are properly protected and watched over, you may prepare for an outbreak at no distant day.

In reference to my second plan, you will observe, I have estimated for

forage for three animals, and they are necessary to enable the agent to visit the pueblos of his district. Remember, he must pack his provisions, bedding, &c. I have not estimated for the value of these animals, which cannot be less than \$350 for each district. So far as the headquarters of the agent is concerned within his district, I would, at this time, leave him to select the place, or commit it to the discretion of a superintendent.

Having disposed of the Pueblo Indians upon the best and most economical terms that I can conscientiously suggest, I shall proceed to submit my views in relation to the wild Indians—the Apaches, Comanches, Navajoes and Utahs. These Indians, including their various independent bands, I take it for granted, must be located and confined within certain fixed limits, and there compelled to remain, and to build up pueblos and cultivate the soil. I do not recommend that these four tribes should be located near each other. It is possible the Apaches and Comanches might be located in adjoining districts, and in like manner the Navajoes and Utahs. If so, two agents, to be located at a central military post, would be sufficient; otherwise, you must have four—each to be located at a military post, for which I submit the following estimate:

Salary for agent	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,500
Salary for interpreter	-	-	-	-	-	-	600
Forage for two horses	-	-	-	-	-	-	375
Horse-shoeing	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Hostler	-	-	-	-	-	-	180
Rations	-	-	-	-	-	-	120

2,810

Incidental expenses for the first year, to secure shelter for agent, interpreter, hostler, and two animals	-	-	-	-	-	-	600
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3,410

Tribes	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
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Aggregate	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,640
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I have not estimated the value of the two horses, which would increase the aggregate of each agency \$250	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,660
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Tribes	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
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First year	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,640
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For the first twelve months, if these Indians are confined to fixed limits and required to build pueblos and cultivate the soil, you would be obliged to contribute largely to the support of the Apaches, Comanches, and Utahs. You would have to send men among them to teach them the use of agricultural implements, which should be furnished to them, and also to direct their labor in the building of pueblos. To accomplish these things successfully will require an appropriation of \$100,000, to be expended under the direction of the President of the United States or the Secretary of the Interior.

To establish order in this Territory, you must either submit to these heavy expenditures, or exterminate the mass of these Indians. After the

present year, I would recommend the employment of blacksmiths for these Indians and for the Pueblos.

I do not think presents should be given to Indians of this Territory, except in the shape of food and implements of husbandry. They should be taught at once to rely upon their own industry, not only for the luxuries of life, which they should be taught to appreciate, but for all that is necessary for their personal wants and comforts. To that end, they should be made to know that the food which it is proposed to furnish to them was intended to subsist them only until they could make one crop, and no longer.

If a superintendency of Indian affairs is established, I submit the following estimates for its support:

	1st year.	2d year.
Salary of superintendent.....	\$2,000	\$2,000
Secretary.....	1,200	1,200
Interpreter.....	600	600
Board of interpreter while in Santa Fe.....	200	200
Rents for house and stables.....	600	600
Two horses and six mules.....	850	
Forage.....	1,600	1,600
Horse-shoeing.....	100	100
Hostler.....	300	300
Board.....	120	120
One wagon and harness.....	150	
	<u>7,720</u>	<u>6,720</u>

To which should be added \$1,000 for contingencies in paying guides, runners, and subsisting Indians and their horses during their visits to the superintendency.

It must be known to you that our expenses are heavier in Santa Fe than in any other place in the Territory. At present, my rent account is \$70 per month; corn is worth at this time \$2 per bushel; shoeing of a horse, \$4; sugar, 50 cents per pound; coffee, 37½; lumber, \$65 per M; bacon and lard, none except at the commissary's; beef, exceedingly poor and coarse, 8 cents per pound; a shoat, not weighing more than 60 to 75 pounds, \$8 to \$10; chickens, from 25 to 50 cents each; turkeys, from \$1 to \$2. The necessities of life, such as we have been accustomed to in the States, and the delicacies and luxuries which we require, must all be brought from the United States. For expenditures on account of rents, pay of interpreters, teamsters, forage, &c., &c., I again refer you to the returns of the quartermaster and commissary of this department. Had not the commissary sold me subsistence on the same terms he is authorized to sell to officers of the army, and had the quartermaster refused to furnish me with transportation and forage, I should utterly have failed to discharge my duties in this Territory. In addition to my salary, \$1,500, before the end of my first year I shall have expended, necessarily, of my own private funds, about \$1,500 more. The expenditures of the second year will not be so great, and as the country becomes quiet and settled, will continue to diminish, but can never fall to the reasonable limits assigned to them in the States; hence the suggestion, that what would be

considered quite liberal in the United States would be wholly inadequate in this Territory.

I have to remark, the superintendent should be required to visit every agency twice a year, *if possible*, and ascertain from personal observation the true state and condition of each agency, and the necessary wants of the Indians attached to such agencies.

The following recapitulation is made, in order that the heavy expenditures which I recommend may be examined as a whole:

1st plan for Pueblos.....	\$33,900	2d plan, including horses..	\$33,400
1st plan for the four wild tribes.....	14,640	2d plan.....	7,320
Food for one year.....	100,000	2d plan.....	100,000
Superintendency.....	7,720	2d plan.....	7,720
For the 1st year.....	161,260		148,440
Less 2d year—			
Food appropriation.....	\$100,000		
Horses for Pueblo districts.....	2,800		
Horses for wild Indian agencies.....	1,000		
Horses and wagon for superintendent..	1,000		
	104,800		104,800
Expenditures for 2d year.....	56,460		43,640

When we take into view our obligations to Mexico, as they are recorded in the treaty of 1848, our obligations to establish good governments, and to protect the lives and property of every citizen, we cannot, we must not be influenced by dollars and cents. Who would not most willingly have preferred to have heard that the government of the United States had ordered an expenditure of \$50,000 or \$100,000, rather than to have heard of the butchery of poor White, his wife, daughter, and friends?

Again, remember the vast demands that will be made upon the government of the United States by Mexico, and citizens of this Territory, in consequence of Indian depredations. These evils can be quieted only by the minor and humane expenditures which I have recommended. I do not stop by the way to inquire as to what return may be expected from the sale of public lands. That is not a question that should weigh an atom in the consideration of this subject. Our duties should be discharged honestly and faithfully, and a proper economy and a becoming liberality should be observed.

I trust to be pardoned for the frank manner in which I communicate my views. It is my custom; and I should feel very awkward if I did not record them just in the shape in which they occur to me; and they are based upon the supposition that the government of the United States will select agents competent and perfectly willing to discharge their duties honestly and faithfully. The converse of this supposition will readily occur to reflecting minds; and to the proper departments I commit the subject.

I have the honor to be your very obedient servant,

J. S. CALHOUN, *Indian Agent.*

ORLANDO BROWN, Esq.,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.

P. S.—I beg to refer you to my No. 24, dated November 17, 1849, on the subject of expenditures in Santa Fé.

J. S. C.

INDIAN AGENCY, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO,
March 31, 1850.

SIR: I have the honor to advise you that four Mexican captives were delivered to me on Friday, the 22d instant, and from them I gather the following facts:

1. Refugio Picaros, about twelve years of age, was taken from a rancho, called Papascal, near St. Iago, State of Durango, Mexico, two years ago, by the Comanches, who immediately sold him to the Apaches, and with them he lived and roamed on both sides of the Rio del Norte, until January last, when he was *bought* by José Francisco Lucero, a Mexican, residing at the Moro, in this Territory. He says the purchase was made at the Cerro Carmel, about two days' travel east from the Rio del Norte, and four knives, one plug of tobacco, two fanegas of corn, four blankets, and six yards of red Indian cloth, were paid for him. He has no father nor mother alive, but has brothers and sisters.

2. Theodoro Martel, ten or twelve years of age, was taken from the service of José Alvarado, at La Pops, near Saltillo, Mexico, by Apaches, two years ago, and has remained the greater portion of the time on the west side of the Rio del Norte. He was bought by Fowler Sandoval, who also resides at the Moro, from the Apaches at Agua Asule, near the Pecos river, in this Territory, in February last. The payment for him was one mare, one rifle, one shirt, one pair of drawers, thirty small packages of powder, some bullets, and one buffalo robe. The boy was claimed by Diego Sandoval, from whom I received him. He knows of no relations.

3. Caudelaus Galope, about twelve years of age, was seized by the Apaches, he thinks, four years ago, at the rancho Fernandez, near Santa Cruz, Mexico. He is unable to name the State in which Santa Cruz is situated. Two brothers and sisters of his were taken at the same time, and he supposes they are yet with the Apaches. His father and mother were alive at the time he was captured. He was *bought* from the Apaches, in January or February last, by Vincente Romero, of the Moro, at a place called Lo Cerro Queso, perhaps "Eé Cerro del Queso," east of the Rio del Norte, in this Territory. Price paid was some corn and tobacco, one knife, one shirt, one mule, one small package of powder, and a few balls.

4. Rosalie Taveres, about twenty-five years of age; resided in Monclova, and was captured in November last by a band of Apaches and Comanches, within two days' travel of Monclova. Her husband, Santiago Costellari, and her daughter, four years old, were killed at that time. Her mother, Eturedas Guerris, lives in Monclova. She is known to Don Miguel Cortures and Don Ramon Moseus, and was bought from the Apaches by Fowler Sandoval, of the Moro, at Cerro Queso, in January last, who paid for her two striped blankets, ten yards blue cotton drilling, ten yards calico, ten yards cotton shirting, two handkerchiefs, four plugs of tobacco, one bag of corn, and one knife. She is quite an intelligent woman; says that the band by whom she was captured consisted of about fifty Indians, who seized at the same time eight other captives, strangers to her, and all but two, who *sickened* and died, (perhaps killed,) were brought from Mexico into this Territory with her. She states there

are a great number of captives at or near La Cerro Queso; that all the men who were captured are killed; that parties of Apaches and Comanches are constantly going out and coming in with horses, mules, sheep, goats, cows, goods, money, and captives; and while at La Queso, she saw the clothing of an American man and boy, whom the Apaches said they had killed. These captives complain of very cruel treatment—the woman especially, who says she was spared but one humiliation.

Encarnacion Garcia and the individuals from whom I received the captives confirm in general terms the foregoing statements, but protest no munitions of war were paid for them. I give full credit to the statements of the captives. The Mexicans from whom I received the captives will claim to have paid more than is stated above, and without doubt *can prove any statement they may make.*

The trading in captives has been so long tolerated in this Territory, that it has ceased to be regarded as a wrong; and purchasers are not prepared willingly to release captives without an adequate ransom. In legislating upon this subject, it should be distinctly set forth under what circumstances captives shall be released, and limiting the expenditures that may be incurred thereby. Unless the Mexicans are paid for such captives as they have purchased, and have now in possession, but very few of them will be released; nor will it answer well to allow captives to make their election as to a release, for their submission to their masters is most perfect, and they are well instructed as to proper replies to interrogatories.

That a proper economy may be observed in releasing captives, some arrangement should be made for their early return to Mexico, or to some authorized agent of Mexico, who might reside at El Paso or in Santa Fe. It is presumed, should treaties be made with the Apaches and Comanches, they will be required to deliver up all captives, free of charge, and all stolen property that they may, at the time, have in their possession. Many of the captives belong to this Territory, and such, of course, will be turned over to their relatives. But until this can be accomplished, they must be clothed and fed, and stolen property must be taken care of and disposed of. Expenditures in both cases must be incurred, and should be provided for. The law to be passed by Congress for the release of captives, under the late treaty with Mexico, will, without doubt, contain suitable provisions for their subsistence and clothing. Those that I have on hand I am clothing and feeding, and respectfully ask for instructions in the premises.

I may, in conclusion, mention that there are a number of Indian captives held as slaves in this Territory, and some congressional action may be necessary in relation to them; and I respectfully submit the question for appropriate consideration.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

J. S. CALHOUN,
Indian Agent.

ORLANDO BROWN, Esq.,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.

No. 31.

INDIAN AGENCY, SANTA FE,
New Mexico, July 15, 1850.

SIR: By or before the first day of June last, I have reason to believe you received my letters Nos. 50 and 51. These two letters have conveyed to you my opinions of a suitable organization for the Indian service in New Mexico, and the amount of expenditures that I deem absolutely necessary in order to carry it out in a proper and efficient manner.

My opinions in relation to "one general superintendent," &c., are in perfect accord with those of the department, as I have heretofore written. I regret exceedingly that I have not seen your "annual report." In your remark, "better too many than too few" agents, I fully concur; but I am really astonished at the authoritative manner in which the Hon. H. N. Smith states that the Jicarillas "are entirely separate and distinct from any other tribe." This statement is antagonistical to every particle of information that has reached me in reference to these Indians. These people, to some extent, are the issue of Apaches and Comanches, but to a much greater extent Apaches and Utahs: at least this is my understanding of the subject.

In relation to the number of Pueblo Indians, for reasons which I have heretofore given you, I cannot agree with Mr. Smith in his estimate, 7,000. In my No. 51, my views are given in reference to agents and sub-agents, and expenditures generally. I am aware that if we look at the number of the Indians only, the number of agents which I recommend would seem to be unreasonable. On the section of a map which I enclosed to you in my No. 50, the spots upon which pueblos are built are somewhat accurately marked. By an examination of it, and remembering the topography of the country, you will not fail to perceive why it is the number of agents must be greatly disproportioned to the number of Indians. And here I may remark, these Indians may be easily managed if properly protected and cared for; but if driven to desperation, and they combine their forces, it will be no easy matter to subdue them.

I am inclined to think my Nos. 50 and 51 contain all the information you desire, except as to mechanics. I would recommend that a blacksmith and a man who could make wagons and plough stocks should be attached to the agency of each district. Such mechanics would have to be sent from the States, and all the tools necessary for their trade.

In my No. 24 my views are defined in reference to the present laws regulating trade and intercourse with the Indians, &c. The amendments therein suggested would adapt them to the peculiar condition of affairs in this Territory, and perhaps improve their efficiency elsewhere.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

J. S. CALHOUN,
Indian Agent.

ORLANDO BROWN, Esq.,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

No. 32.

Extract of a letter from J. S. Calhoun, esq., Indian Agent, dated Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 12, 1850.

Two Apaches, a man and his wife, are now at this agency. They were brought to the headquarters of this military department by order of the commanding officers at Abiquin, and, at the request of Colonel Munroe, they are in charge of this agency.

It appears a party of some fifteen or twenty Apaches, men, women, and children, were on their way from the northeast to Abiquin, as they represented, to ask permission to reside near that post, and under its protection. Before reaching Abiquin, near the Ojo Caliente, they stopped at a Mexican's house, and asked for something to eat, which was promptly given to them. After they had eaten, the Mexican managed to induce them to wander about his premises, having previously prepared to have executed his bloody purpose; and while thus separated, four of them, one man and three small boys, were murdered upon the spot. One man, a girl, and two boys are missing. The Mexican ordered his men to fire on the survivors, consisting principally of women and children, but they refused to obey the order. The man who is at this agency was not present, having gone a short distance to report as chief of the party, to the prefect of the county, the objects and destination of the Apache party under his command. The prefect gave them an escort to Abiquin. A son of the Apache here was slain. These Indians will be permitted to reside for the present near Abiquin; and at Colonel Munroe's suggestion, I will cause them to be supplied with provisions to a limited extent. By this course we may induce others to come in, from whom we may glean some useful information. The one present claims to have been in retirement, and therefore ignorant as to the murders and depredations committed by the Apaches. He says there is a number of Mexican captives among them.

The Mexican who caused the murders to be committed at the Ojo Caliente has been in prison here for the last three days, and will be set at liberty upon a mere nominal recognizance. The demoralization of society here is such, it would be impolitic, if not altogether impracticable, to administer justice in this case. A considerable sum of money has been subscribed to procure a gold medal to be presented to this cold-blooded murderer; and this is done chiefly by Americans.

By reference to my No. 76, dated August the 12th of the present year, you will perceive I notified you of the assaults made by the Navajoes upon the Pueblo of Zuñi. I again alluded to this subject on the 30th of September last, (No. 81.) We now learn, the Navajoes a few days since made another attack upon Zuñi, with a force, it is apprehended, that will have proved disastrous to the pueblo by the destruction of their crops, if nothing more serious has occurred. This attack was delayed for a few days, in consequence of the presence of the escort at Zuñi, who accompanied the Bishop of Durango to that place. After leaving Zuñi, it was discovered that one of our dragoons was missing, and the commanding officer ordered a few others back to bring him up. While these dragoons were yet in view of this pueblo, the Navajoes had commenced the attack. In reference to this attack, nothing further is known. Colonel Munroe has ordered a company of dragoons stationed at Cibolletta to proceed to

Zuñi, and has sent fifty old muskets for the use of the Indians of that pueblo. If the Pueblo Indians have been able to save their crops, it will be fortunate for our troops, as they relied upon them for a portion of their supplies, which would have been greatly augmented if their warriors could have been engaged in tilling the earth, instead of guarding the pueblo, and the laborers who were compelled to work. An agent at Zuñi, in my opinion, as I have frequently suggested, might have secured them such protection as greatly to have increased their crops, and prevented the present war, especially if he had been permitted the use of the ordnance and ordnance stores which I have heretofore recommended. Until protection is afforded to the Pueblo Indians, you may in vain expect your government animals to be kept fit for service. Independent of this consideration, there are other and higher obligations which require the government of the United States to protect these Indians, and establish and preserve the tranquillity of this Territory. Unless Congress has acted discreetly upon this subject, almost the entire American population unconnected with the army must leave the country. Immigration has entirely ceased, and many who came into the country to reside, not daring to venture into the interior of the country so as to ascertain its resources, have been compelled to go to California, or return to the States. I venture the opinion, that at least one half of American immigrants to this Territory have left it during the last six months. They are daily departing. The mineral resources of New Mexico are believed to be equal to those of any country; and yet the most daring and enterprising dare not venture so far abroad as to ascertain with any degree of certainty the mineral wealth of the Territory. It would be a blindness to well-established historical facts, to suppose the native population of this Territory, in its present demoralized and subdued condition, could develop its resources; and unless American energy and enterprise are properly protected here, as elsewhere, it must ever remain a heavy charge upon the treasury of the United States. It is unnecessary to repeat my views in relation to a proper disposition of affairs in this Territory. They are well known to the department.

The seven Moqui pueblos sent to me a deputation, who presented themselves on the sixth day of this month. Their object, as announced, was to ascertain the purposes and views of the government of the United States towards them. They complained bitterly of the depredations of the Navajoes.

The deputation consisted of the Cacique of *all* the pueblos, and a *chief* of the largest pueblo, accompanied by two who were not officials. From what I could learn from the Cacique, I came to the conclusion that each of the seven pueblos was an independent republic, having confederated for mutual protection. One of the popular errors of the day is, there are but five of these pueblos remaining; another is, that one of the pueblos speak a different language from the other six. I understood the Cacique to say the *seven* spoke the same language; but the pueblo in which he resided, Tanoquari, spoke also the language of the pueblo of Santa Domingo—hence the error first mentioned. These pueblos may be all visited in one day. They are supposed to be located about due west from Santa Fe, and from three to four days' travel northwest from Zuñi. The following was given to me as the names of their pueblos:

1. Oriva; 2. Samoupavi; 3. Inparavi; 4. Mausand; 5. Opquivi; 6. Chemovi; 7. Tanoquibi.

I understood, further, they regarded as a small pueblo Zuñi, as compared with Oriva. The other pueblos were very much like Zuñi and Santa Domingo. They supposed Oriva could turn out one thousand warriors.

I desired, and believed it to be important, to visit these Indians, and would have done so if Colonel Munroe had not, in reply to my application for an escort, replied that he could not furnish me with one at that time. They left me apparently highly gratified at the reception and presents given to them.

These Indians ought to be visited at an early day.

The *Utahs* seem to be quiet, and no one has recently complained of their conduct.

The Comanches.—I have heard nothing concerning these Indians since my letter to you of the — day of —.

The *Apaches* are reposing, or preparing for an outbreak of some kind. Without an adequate fund, we shall never be able to pry successfully into the purposes of the wild Indians of this Territory.

No. 33.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 9, 1850.

SIR: Your letter of February 27th, upon the subject of our Indian relations in New Mexico, has been received; and, in reply, I would remark, that while I entirely concur with you in opinion that our main reliance to keep the Indians in a proper subjection, and prevent the recurrence of those depredations and acts of outrage which have so long afflicted New Mexico, must be upon an efficient and active military force, still your department can effect a great deal for us.

The appointment and proper distribution of a suitable number of Indian agents in that country would enable the government to act correctly and advisedly, both with a view to the interest of the Indian and also of the emigrants and settlers in that country, when the government undertakes (which it must do) to mark out and set apart the country which it intends shall be the permanent and future home of each separate and distinct tribe. The agents would also be able to give the government officers immediate and correct information of all acts of hostility committed by their different tribes, of their different localities and haunts, so that they might be pursued and punished immediately; a prompt retribution has a better effect than even a severer punishment after a long delay. The agents would be of great service in carrying out that stipulation of our recent treaty with Mexico whereby we agree to restore to liberty all those Mexican captives now in possession of the Indians who have become incorporated within our limits. The agents would be necessary in regulating the proper intercourse of traders with those Indians, as much of our difficulty with them arises, in my opinion, from the misconduct of lawless and improper persons who are allowed to go among them under pretence of trading.

I do not think the Indians in and surrounding New Mexico are so lazy and indolent as tribes nearer here, and bordering upon our own civili-

zation. After they are once reduced to a proper subjection, and made to feel the strength and power of our government, and afterwards experience its clemency and kindness, I am of opinion that they can easily be induced to adopt an agricultural life; that they will prove to be very tractable; and under the guidance of discreet and worthy agents, we may yet see some of their rich mountain valleys teeming with produce of a laborious cultivation. The Spaniards reclaimed from savage life all our Pueblos, and made them industrious and honest cultivators of the soil; in a short time we might succeed as well with several of the wild tribes surrounding New Mexico.

I think there should be appointed at least five agents for the five following tribes, viz: Comanches, Southern Apaches, Navajoes, Utahs, and Northern Apaches, or, as the latter are sometimes called, the Jicarillas. Though the last are omitted by Colonel Calhoun, they are entirely separate and distinct from any other tribe, and are pre-eminently distinguished for their ferocity and cruelty; they infest our northern settlements, and have been a greater annoyance to New Mexico than any other tribe either within or surrounding our Territory.

The Pueblos or civilized Indians residing within the settlements of New Mexico—a very peaceable, honest, and industrious people—possess many of the rights of citizenship; they do not exceed in numbers about seven thousand, and might be divided into three districts, and an agent appointed for each. They own the best land now under cultivation in that country, and their claims are undoubtedly good grants from the Spanish and Mexican governments, but for some years past trespasses and gradual encroachments have been committed upon their lands by the Mexicans. I see no way in which our government can aid them in adjusting these conflicting claims, except by assisting them with the advice of counsel and agents whenever their causes or complaints are brought before the proper judicial tribunals. These different pueblos are now, according to law, *quasi corporations*, and to a great extent have the management of their own affairs and the internal police of their towns, and can appear in any court and sue and be sued by the name of their separate towns and villages.

In reference to salaries and compensation to be paid such officers in that country, I would suppose that the superintendent of Indian affairs residing at Santa Fe should receive at least twenty-five hundred dollars per annum, and that he could not live there for less; and other agents and employés should be paid in proportion, as the expense of living there is greatly more than here.

A very desirable effect might be produced upon some of the wild tribes of Indians by sending a delegation from each tribe to Washington city. By allowing the tribes themselves to select some of their principal chief men for this visit, you would secure to those distant savages some idea of the strength and power of the government; a correct knowledge of which would induce a greater disposition to enter into formal stipulations, and secure a better faith in the execution and observance of their treaties.

But in connexion with all this, allow me to remark that neither superintendents, agents, nor formal contractors nor commissioners, can be effective without the presence and co-operation, for some time, of a strong and active military force; it should be well mounted, and composed of those hardy and adventurous pioneers and mountain men who are to be found

upon our frontier, and should always be commanded by an officer well acquainted with Indian character and warfare. The officer commanding against those Indians should be vigilant, prompt, and energetic; undaunted by any difficulties or obstacles, he should pursue them through their mountain haunts and wild retreats, and never desist until he has visited their first infractions of their treaty with severe and speedy punishment. Every day we hear of fresh acts of outrage being committed by those Indians; and our government has so long delayed its punishment that they now believe they can commit any depredations with impunity, and will hardly go through with the formality of making a treaty. A timely interference and check imposed now by our government might prevent, at comparatively a small cost, those massacres and terrible scenes of bloodshed which will undoubtedly ensue if those Indians are permitted to go on and add to their strength by combinations of the different tribes, and which would entail upon our government a succession of military operations more protracted and more expensive than the famous Florida war.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

HUGH N. SMITH.

TO ORLANDO BROWN, Esq.,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington city, D. C

No. 34.

Extract of a letter from John H. Rollins, esq., acting as special agent for United States for Texas Indians, dated Austin, November 2, 1850.

I had the honor to report from this place, under date of September 30, that, in consequence of the failure of the Comanche Indians to meet me in council on the 21st of September, I was then on my way to the "Clear Fork" of the Brazos to seek them, and, if possible, learn their intentions and true position.

At forts Graham and Gates (posts in my route) I obtained an escort of twenty men, under the command of Lieutenant Alvoird, of the army, which, together with eleven Delaware Indians employed by me, gave me a force sufficiently large and efficient for my purposes.

On the fifth day from Fort Graham, and about one hundred and twenty-five miles from that post, I found the Comanche chiefs Catumpsey and Little Wolf, and portions of their people. They were at first greatly frightened; but the assurance that no violence was intended soon removed their fears, and they collected around me for a "talk." As soon as I informed them of the object of my visit, and their supposed unfriendly disposition and conduct, they expressed the strongest desire to be considered friends, and readily agreed to meet me again as soon as I succeeded in finding Buffalo Hump and Shanaco, the other chiefs of the Southern Comanches. In order to show their sincerity, they sent a young Comanche captain along to assist me in my search for the other chiefs—a thing unprecedented among the Comanches, and illustrative of their confidence in my statements. Within the three following days I found Buffalo Hump and Shanaco, (Comanche,) and Akaquash, a chief among

the Waccos; and on the fifth I met the four Comanches and the Wacco chief, their headmen, and captains, in council.

I stated to them that on account of their absence from my councils, their many thefts and occasional murders, it had been inferred that they had abandoned the treaty of 1846 and determined to be hostile. I recounted the many reasons that existed for supposing them unfriendly; and told them that the government had determined not to submit to this state of things any longer, but intended, unless satisfactory explanations and atonements were made, to make war upon them immediately. I informed them that I did not come among them at that time to make accusations or to adjust difficulties, but to advise them of their true positions and interest, and invite them *once more* and for the *last time* to meet me in council. That unless they did this, brought in the stolen horses, the men who committed the murder at Craig's trading-house, and come fully prepared to treat in relation to the many Mexican prisoners among them, troops would be immediately sent into every part of the Indian country.

Buffalo Hump, for himself and the rest, replied that the talk was *very good*; and that, although it was very plain and not such as they had been accustomed to hear, yet it was not offensive, as he believed it to be true and warranted by the circumstances; that there had been many violations of the treaty on both sides, and it was better either to renew and abide by the treaty, or to disregard it altogether; that his people had been on the Rio Grande occasionally in small numbers, in company with other Indians, against his wishes and in violation of his express orders; but as some of them had very properly been killed, he hoped it would be a lesson to the rest; that he and his people *generally* were friends, *truly so*, but that they had bad men among them whom they could not control, and he hoped the innocent would not be made to suffer in common with the guilty; that on account of the difficulties on the Rio Grande, and west generally, and information received, through the agents of George Barnard, that all Indians found west of the Colorado would be attacked indiscriminately, they had fled to the Brazos, where they were informed there was no war and they would be safe; that they had been anxiously waiting for some time to learn the disposition of the government towards them, and the course intended to be adopted; that Catumpsey had visited the trading-house of Barnard and requested him to write and send me a letter; that he was afraid to meet me at the treaty appointed, and that all the southern Comanches were ready and anxious to counsel with me at any time and place appointed by me.

It was agreed, therefore, and they most solemnly pledged themselves, to meet me on the 19th of the present month, on the Rio San Saba, together with all their people, in a *general* council, where we would honestly and faithfully try to adjust all differences. He promised to notify *all* Indians that he could possibly see, and to meet me with at least eight hundred persons.

As my escort was provisioned for thirty days from Fort Graham, eight days more than was necessary, I gave the Indians eight days' rations for thirty men, and they went away seemingly in improved spirits and with every manifestation of an intention to comply literally with their promises.

I do not of course know positively that they will meet me, or, if they do, that existing difficulties can be reconciled; yet, from all I can see and learn, I believe they will attend, and that I shall succeed in renewing fully

the treaty of Messrs. Butler & Lewis. There are many counter currents, adverse interests, bad men and influences, to contend against, but I SHALL SUCCEED IN PREVENTING A WAR.

I also saw the Caddoes and their associate bands, who expressed much anxiety about their situation and a determination to attend the treaty.

The Lepans had been before notified.

The Wichetahs, Tonkaways, and Keechers, I did not see. They are, as I am informed, somewhere on Red river, and have formed a general combination for the purposes of plunder. It is this combination that does most of the horse-stealing along the frontier. I do not expect them at the council, and consider them beyond my control. * * * *

Since the 1st day of September I have travelled over eleven hundred miles, most of the time without roads, or other provender than the dry grass for my horses; slept in houses only once or twice, and counselled eight times with the different bands of Indians; yet I have not seen, nor do I know the feelings of, one-half the Indians belonging properly to this agency. I can only say, therefore, in relation to the Indians I have seen, that they are all certainly friendly, except a small portion of the Comanches, and that they may be controlled by judicious management.

It is known to the department that it will be necessary to feed these Indians during the treaty, and to make them some presents. In order to do this, I have engaged sixty beeves and three hundred bushels of corn, to be delivered on the ground; and I am now on my way to San Antonio to procure such presents as I may be able to purchase there. I go to San Antonio also for the purpose of inducing General Brooke, if possible, to attend this treaty, as the Indians express an ardent wish to see the "Big Captain;" and the appearance of himself and staff among them would no doubt exert a most powerful and salutary influence.

A.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, *Office of Indian Affairs, October 25, 1850.*

GENTLEMEN: I have been officially notified of your appointment as "commissioners to negotiate treaties with the several Indian tribes in the Territory of Oregon for the extinguishment of their claims to lands lying west of the Cascade mountains, under the act of 5th June last," and am directed by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior to prepare appropriate instructions for your observance in the discharge of the duties of your office.

Such instructions must necessarily be of a general character. That Territory having been but recently organized, the files of this office do not as yet afford sufficient material for detailed information to guide you.

Your commissions were forwarded to you on the 12th August last, and I have now to inform you that your compensation will be at the rate of eight dollars per day for every day you may be necessarily engaged in the performance of the duty assigned you; and you will also be allowed ten cents per mile for every mile you may be required to travel while occupied in making treaties and in travelling to and from the place or places where you may be called.

Ex.—10

It is impossible for this office to tell how many interpreters or other assistants you may require. This must be left to yourselves, both as to numbers and amount of compensation to be paid, but with the suggestion that as much economy as is consistent with a proper and efficient discharge of your duties be used. The necessary travelling expenses of your employes will be paid.

As before remarked, the information in the possession of this office is so limited that nearly everything must be left to your discretion beyond what is here communicated, and even that may be found by you to be somewhat defective.

The tract of country lying west of the Cascade mountains, extending to the Pacific ocean, reaches from 42° to 49° , and has considerable width. It is inhabited by numerous tribes of Indians, many of them small in numbers, and others comprising two, three, and four hundred warriors; some at the extreme south, and others at the extreme north. There are some ten or twelve of them. Our knowledge on that subject is not very accurate. It rests mainly upon the observation of those who have resided there temporarily—some of them for two or three years. The locality of these is not well known. Some of them live by fishing; others by hunting, in part; others in part from the supplies heretofore received from the Hudson's Bay Company in the course of their trade. Most of them are doubtless of a peaceable disposition, acquired by long habit of intercourse with American and British traders; others of them are more wild and fierce in their temper and disposition, and will require great discretion and prudence in their management. It is understood that one or other of these tribes, great or small, east of the Cascade mountains, set up claims to every portion of the territory. The rights of the several tribes you will, of course, inquire into.

The inhabitants complain that they have been there for several years and have been obliged to make settlements, improvements, &c., &c., and not one of them can claim a perfect title to any portion of the soil they occupy. It is indispensable that this question be settled in some form or other. The object of the government is to extinguish the title of the Indians to all the lands lying west of the Cascade mountains, and, if possible, to provide for the removal of the whole from the west to the east of the mountains; but should you fail in inducing the whole to remove, you will then induce as many as you can procure acquisitions of territory from; but no effort should be untried to procure the removal of the whole, thereby leaving the country free for settlement by the whites. It will probably be best for you to treat first with the Indians in the white settlements, particularly in the Willamette valley, and to treat separately with each tribe; but of this you will be best able to judge. As to the quantity of land to be acquired, and the price per acre to be paid for it, it is impossible for this office to form even a conjecture; the quantity must, of course, depend on the number of treaties made—upon estimates of the rights of the Indians to the soil ceded by them. As to the price to be paid, that will depend on the locality of the land with reference to its value to the United States, if it be possible to make such distinctions; but if not, you will be governed by your own discretion. It is presumed the lands to be ceded will not be found to be of any very great value, and in many cases it is presumed the consideration will be merely nominal; but in others, where the land is of more value, of course a greater

sum will be allowed. The maximum price given for Indian lands has been ten cents per acre, but this has been for small quantities of great value from their contiguity to the States; and it is merely mentioned to show that some important consideration has always been involved when so large a price has been given. It is not for a moment supposed that any such consideration can be involved in any purchases to be made by you, and it is supposed a very small portion of that price will be required.

In estimating the value of the lands ceded, you will fix on a gross amount, in money, to be paid for it, on which an annuity of a sum not exceeding five per cent. will be paid; and it is extremely desirable that the whole annuity be absorbed, by treaty stipulation, in objects beneficial to the Indians, and that no part of it shall be paid to them in money. The objects provided for should be agricultural assistance, employment of blacksmiths and mechanics, farmers to teach them how cultivate the land, physicians, and, above all, ample provision for purposes of education. After providing for these objects, if any portion of the money remains, it should be stipulated that it be paid in goods, to be delivered to them annually in their own country.

In effecting the removal of the Indians from the west, it will be necessary to provide a new home for them among their brethren on the east of the mountains. This, of course, must be done, and it is to be hoped it may be effected peaceably, and at little cost to the United States. Whether it will be necessary for you to enter into treaty negotiations with these eastern Indians for this object, you will be best able to judge when the whole subject is brought before you.

To carry out the objects of the commission, the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) can be applied; of this amount, five thousand dollars (\$5,000) will be invested in goods, suitable for presents to the Indians, which will be sent around Cape Horn, and the balance, fifteen thousand dollars, (\$15,000,) will be placed in the hands of the first-named of your board, Governor Gaines, with which he will be charged, and for which he will account by regular accounts and vouchers; and as the treasury has funds at San Francisco, drafts on that place will be enclosed to him. Governor Gaines will also be charged with the sum expended in goods, for which he will account upon the certificates of the board that they have been used in carrying out the objects intended.

It was omitted to be mentioned in the proper place that you are authorized to employ a secretary, whose compensation will be at the rate of five dollars (\$5) a day, and ten cents per mile for his necessary travelling expenses. It is not, however, supposed that the whole time of a secretary will be required; and you will therefore restrict his employment only to such times and upon such occasions as you may find necessary.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. S. LOUGHERY,

Acting Commissioner.

His Excellency J. P. GAINES, and Messrs. ALONZO H SKINNER and BEVERLY S. ALLEN, *Commissioners.*

B.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, July 20, 1850.

SIR: I have been officially notified of your appointment as superintendent of Indian affairs for the Territory of Oregon, under the act of the 5th ultimo, creating that office, and am directed by the Hon. Secretary of the Interior to prepare appropriate instructions for your observance in the discharge of the duties of your office.

Such instructions must necessarily be of a general character. That Territory having been but recently organized, the files of this office do not, as yet, afford sufficient material for more specific details than those formerly given to Governor Lane, (a copy of which you will find among the accompanying papers;) and circumstances may require an occasional departure from, or modification of, any general code of instructions emanating from a point so remote from the scene of action as this. On this point, much is left to your own discretion and better judgment, when your superior local knowledge will have enabled you to act more advisedly in the premises; but such departures, if any, you will report at once to this office, in order that it may be constantly advised of the state and progress of Indian affairs in your superintendency.

The instructions, then, to the late ex-officio superintendent will serve for your general guidance until the department is in possession of further information upon which to base others more in detail; and in view of this desirable object, it is both hoped and believed that you can do much towards furnishing such information in a short time after your arrival in the Territory, and that the department will not rest for any great length of time under its present embarrassing want of reliable statistical knowledge of Indian affairs in Oregon.

The above-mentioned paper, taken in connexion with the report of Governor Lane, (a copy of which is also herewith enclosed,) will serve at least as an outline for your initiatory action, and until further instructed by that practical experience and observation from which, as before mentioned, much is anticipated.

Among the papers enclosed you will find the regulations for the prevention and suppression of the whiskey trade among all Indian tribes. Governor Lane speaks of this traffic as being carried on "by vessels coming into the Columbia, and particularly at Baker's bay and Astoria." It is doubtless introduced at other points; and, as the country becomes more densely settled, the evil, it is apprehended, will be greatly increased. The suppression of this traffic has always been considered by the government as one of the most important measures for the civilization of the Indians, and every effort has been made throughout the whole Indian country to keep it beyond their reach. I beg leave, therefore, to call your particular attention to this branch of your duties, and to urge upon you to enforce a strict compliance with the laws and regulations, and, by every effort in your power, endeavor to put a stop to this deplorable evil. You will find in the intercourse law (a copy of which I enclose) full power to enable you to discharge this duty.

It has been represented that most of the goods that have been given to the Indians of Oregon have been purchased of the Hudson's Bay Company, thereby conveying to the Indians the false impression that they

were conferred by persons belonging to a foreign government. It is to be hoped that this has not been done to an extent to produce, as yet, much bad effect; but as it is adverse to the policy of our Indian relations, as well as injurious and insulting to our government, to cause these people to believe themselves the recipients of foreign gratuities, I would suggest that you make all your purchases from American citizens when practicable, and embrace every opportunity to impress on the Indians that it is the American government, and not the British, that confers upon them these benefits. The Indians should also be prevented from crossing the line into the British possessions. The Hudson's Bay Company has so long wielded an undue influence over all Indians within their reach, that you may perhaps find it a difficult matter to carry out these views; but perseverance will no doubt finally effect it, or at least go far towards correcting the present condition of affairs. Under no circumstances should the company be permitted to have trading establishments within the limits of our territory; and if any such establishments now exist, they should be promptly proceeded with in accordance with the requirements of the intercourse law. In this connexion, it is proper to mention that it is the policy of the government, as far as possible, to avoid the payment of money, by way of presents or otherwise, to Indians; they are wasteful and improvident, and but rarely expend money for any useful object; they should receive nothing but what will tend to their happiness and comfort.

The President has appointed two agents, as authorized by the recent law, viz: Anson G. Henry and Henry H. Spalding. They are required by the act to perform such duties as you may assign to them, and will be directed to report to you for this purpose. The first thing to be considered is their proper location, so as to give the greatest efficiency to their labors. It is presumed you will find it best to place one of them east and the other west of the Cascade mountains.

It is desirable that this office should be advised as to their locations, the limits of each agency, and the name, strength, condition, &c., of each tribe, as early as possible. A copy of your instructions to each agent should also be forwarded as soon as practicable.

A great and important object to be attained, and which must be done mainly by the agents, is the reconciling of all differences among the Indians themselves. The agents should represent to the Indians that their Great Father, the President of the United States, enjoins it upon them to live in peace and harmony, and that they must shake hands and live like brethren together. The best way to accomplish this is by inducing bands hostile to each other to enter into written treaties of peace and amity, stipulating to preserve friendship among themselves and towards the whites, and to refer all their misunderstandings and differences to the umpirage of the proper representatives of the United States government.

Great efforts should also be made among the Indians to induce them to engage in agricultural pursuits, to raise grain, vegetables, and stock of all kinds. It would not be amiss to encourage them by the promise of small premiums, to be awarded to those who raised the greatest quantity of produce, horses, oxen, cows, hogs, &c.—the presents which may be given to them from time to time might be applied to this object.

The agents under your supervision will find among the Indians Christian missionaries of various sects and denominations, differing in some

articles of form and faith, but all engaged in the great and good work of extending the blessings of Christianity to an ignorant and idolatrous people, and of civilizing and humanizing the wild and ferocious savage.

The orthodoxy of any of these missionaries is not to be tested by the opinion of the Indian agent, or any other officer of the government—none of these can rightfully be the propagandist of any sect, or the official judge of any article of Christian faith. All, therefore, who are intrusted with the care of our Indian relations in Oregon, are instructed to give the benevolent and self-sacrificing teachers of the Christian religion whom they may find there equal aid, countenance, and encouragement, and that they merit their good will by uniform kindness and concession to all—leaving them free alike to use such means as are in their power to carry out the good work in which they are respectively engaged. The rapid increase of our population, its onward march from the Missouri frontier westward, and from the Pacific east, steadily lessening and closing up the intervening space, renders it certain that there remains to the red man but one alternative—early civilization, or gradual extinction. The efforts of the government will be earnestly directed to his civilization and preservation; and we confidently rely upon their Christian teachers, that, in connexion with their spiritual mission, they will aid in carrying out this policy; that, stationed as they are among the various Indian tribes, they will use all their influence in restraining their wild, roving, and predatory disposition, and in teaching them the arts, and bringing them to the habits of civilized life.

If this can be attained; if they can be taught to subsist, not by the chase merely—a resource which must soon be exhausted—but by the rearing of flocks and herds, and by field cultivation, we may hope that the little remnant of this ill-fated race will not utterly perish from the earth, but have a permanent resting-place and home on some part of our broad domain, once the land of their fathers.

It is represented that the missionaries exercise great influence over the Indians of Oregon, and no doubt could be made powerful auxiliaries in carrying out the policy of the United States. To this end, it might not be amiss to let them know, in such manner as the delicate nature of the communication may suggest to you, that the government, whilst affording them every possible facility and protection, expects in return their aid and co-operation in executing its laws. The happiness of the Indian is the common aim of both, and, the extension of our laws and regulations over them being for their own welfare, this class of philanthropists could not more effectually advance their own humane intentions than by inculcating obedience on the part of their wards, at the same time instructing them that they are solely dependent on this, and not on the British government, and must adhere to it alone; and that, with a sincere desire to protect and favor those who abide by its laws, it has also the strength and disposition to punish those who infringe them.

The governor of the Territory, who has, until the passage of this law, been *ex officio* superintendent of Indian affairs, is in possession of all documents, books, papers, public money, and property belonging to the superintendency. He will be notified of your appointment, and requested to turn over to you everything pertaining to your office. From him you will probably receive most, if not all, the important papers accompanying

this communication; yet, as a matter of precaution, duplicates are herewith furnished.

The sum of \$20,000 will be advanced to you from the treasury, to be applied as follows:

Buildings for superintendent and three agents	-	-	-	\$5,000
Salary of superintendent, one year	-	-	-	2,500
Salary of three agents, one year, \$1,500 each	-	-	-	4,500
Pay of interpreters, presents, provisions to Indians visiting the agencies, contingent expenses, embracing necessary travel in the Indian country on business, house-rent, fuel, stationery, collecting statistical information, &c.	-	-	-	8,000
				<hr/> 20,000 <hr/>

The item for building is intended to embrace your own and the houses of the agents; but, as yours will probably be permanent, the largest portion of the sum may be thus applied, not, however, to exceed \$4,000. As it will probably be some time before the agents are permanently located and their agencies arranged, but a small sum will suffice to put up temporary residences for them. In this, however, as in other matters, much must be left to your judgment and discretion, keeping in view that the sum appropriated for the whole object must not be exceeded.

Your own salary and those of the agents will be paid quarterly.

The amount set apart for provisions, presents, contingencies, &c., is not divided into specific items, for the reason that it would be impossible to designate how much should be expended for any one of them. The sum is a much larger one than is usual in such cases, or supposed to be necessary for the objects specified; but the distance to your superintendency being very great, it is advanced to you as a measure of precaution; and it is perhaps needless here to enjoin on you the greatest economy in its disbursement.

Your official bond has been received, and is approved. Your salary commenced on the 1st instant, the day of its execution.

You will please communicate with the department as frequently as occasion and opportunity may offer, and, in return, you will, from time to time, receive such additional instructions as the public service may seem to require.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. LEA, *Commissioner.*

ANSON DART, Esq.,

Superintendent Indian Affairs, Oregon Territory.

C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Office of Indian Affairs, October 15, 1850.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, by which you will find that your functions and salaries as Indian agents are suspended, and that you are ap-

pointed, with the sanction of the President, commissioners "to hold treaties with various Indian tribes in the State of California," as provided in the act of Congress approved September 30, 1850. Your commissions are also enclosed.

Your compensation as provided by law will be eight dollars per day for every day you are actually employed, and ten cents per mile for your travel, by the usually travelled route to your place of destination. After your arrival in the country in which your duties lie, you will be allowed your actual travelling expenses from place to place where duty may call you.

You will be allowed a secretary, to be appointed by you after your arrival in California, whose compensation must not exceed five dollars per day for his services, and his actual travelling expenses will be allowed. It is not probable that his services will be required for the whole time continuously, and you will therefore employ him only for such time as may be actually necessary.

The services of interpreters will be indispensable in your negotiations. You are therefore authorized to employ such number and for such periods as you may find requisite, confining yourselves to the smallest number, for the shortest periods and for the lowest compensation that competent persons can be obtained for. These precautions of economy are made solely with reference to the small amount of the appropriation, when compared with the great object to be attained.

The first-named gentleman of your board, being present, has been intrusted with the duties of disbursing agent of the commission, and the sum of \$25,000—the whole amount of the appropriation—has been placed in his hands for disbursement. The other two commissioners, together with all other expenses of the commission, will be paid by him.

You will find, on your arrival in California, Adam Johnson, esq., sub-agent at San Joachim, from whom you will doubtless receive much valuable information, as his residence in the country for considerably more than a year has enabled him to collect a great deal relating to the Indian tribes, their location, their manners, habits, customs, disposition towards the whites and each other, and the extent of civilization to which they have arrived.

Mr. Johnson will be directed to afford you all the aid in his power and give you all the information in his possession that may be of use to you in the discharge of your duties.

The department is in possession of little or no information respecting the Indians of California, except what is contained in the enclosed copies of papers, a list of which is appended to these instructions; but whether even these contain sufficient data to entitle them to full confidence will be for you to judge, and they are given to you merely as points of reference.

As set forth in the law creating the commission, and the letter of the Secretary of the Interior, the object of the government is to obtain all the information it can with reference to tribes of Indians within the boundaries of California, their manners, habits, customs, and extent of civilization, and to make such treaties and compacts with them as may seem just and proper. On the arrival of Mr. McKee and Mr. Barbour in California, they will notify Mr. Wozencraft of their readiness to enter upon the duties of the mission. The board will convene, and, after obtaining whatever light may be within its reach, will determine on some rule of action which will

be most efficient in attaining the desired object, which is by all possible means to conciliate the good feelings of the Indians, and to get them to ratify those feelings by entering into written treaties, binding on them towards the government and each other. You will be able to judge whether it will be best for you to act in a body, or separately in different parts of the Indian country.

It is expected that you will keep a journal of your daily proceedings, and report fully to this office everything that occurs in your operations. Copies of these reports you will forward from time to time, the whole to be reserved by you for a general report, accompanied by such treaties as you may make, when your mission shall have been brought to a close.

Another commission has been authorized, consisting of Messrs. C. S. Todd, Robert B. Campbell and Oliver P. Temple, to procure information and make treaties with the Indians on the borders of Mexico. Should you meet at any time, which is scarcely to be expected, you will co-operate and act in concert, so far as may be agreed on between you; and it is requested that whenever this may be the case there will be no misunderstanding as to your relative powers or collision in your understanding of your relative duties, it being regarded that each board is independent of the other; and it is expected that all intercourse between them will be harmonious.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. S. LOUGHERY,
Acting Commissioner.

REDICK McKEE, GEO. W. BARBOUR, and O. M. WOZENCRAFT,
Commissioners.

P. S.—Since writing the above, a telegraphic communication has been received from Mr Wozencraft, at New Orleans; and he has been notified through the same channel that his commission and a triplicate of these instructions will be sent to him at that place.

D.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, October 15, 1850.

GENTLEMEN: You have been appointed by the President of the United States commissioners to procure information, collect statistics, and make treaties with the Indians upon the borders of Mexico, as provided for in the act of September 30, 1850.

Your compensation will be at the rate of eight dollars per day for every day you are actually engaged, and ten cents a mile for your travel from your places of residence until you land in Texas; after which, you will be allowed your actual travelling expenses whilst in the discharge of your duties, of which you will keep an account, to be paid upon your own certificates.

You will be allowed a secretary, to be appointed by yourselves, whose compensation will be five dollars a day, with the same allowance for travelling expenses as in your own case.

You will probably find it necessary to employ many interpreters, the number of whom and rate of compensation are left entirely to yourselves.

The amount appropriated by Congress for this object is \$30,000, which sum will be placed in your hands to meet the objects of your mission, and can in no event be exceeded. Among the expenditures which the law contemplates and requires, is the bestowing of presents upon the Indians, the amount and character of which are left entirely to your own judgment and discretion.

As you will perceive by the law, the object of the government is to collect statistics and make treaties with the Indians residing within the limits of the United States upon the borders of Mexico.

The inquiries intended to be embraced in statistics must necessarily take a very wide range, including every variety of information that can be obtained. A few of the points of inquiry I will endeavor to enumerate.

1. The probable number of tribes, their divisions, subdivisions, and friendly or warlike relations with each other and towards the United States and the whites generally.

2. Their several localities, natural boundaries between them, &c.

3. The number in any one locality, embracing one or more tribes, which would seem to require a full agent, and at what points agencies should be established.

4. At what points sub-agencies would answer in the place of full agencies, and what tribes should be included in the same.

5. What rate of compensation should be allowed for agents, and what for sub-agents.

6. Will it be necessary for government to construct agency-houses at the different points; and, if so, the probable cost of each.

7. What number of interpreters and other employés will be required at the several points, and what should be the rate of compensation paid them.

8. What amount of presents should be distributed, and of what description.

These, however, are collateral branches of your inquiries, which should embrace everything relating to the characters of the several tribes: their manners, habits, customs, mode of living—whether by agriculture, the chase, or otherwise; the extent of their civilization, their religion or religious ceremonies—whether Christian or Pagan; what their religious rites; whether marriages are held sacred among them, and whether a plurality of wives is tolerated. To these inquiries you will add everything relating to the character and history of the Indians that it may be in your power to collect.

It is also desired that you will inform yourselves fully of, and embrace in your report everything relating to, the country itself—its topography, its general resources; whether as containing minerals, or adapted to cultivation; by whom the several portions of country are claimed; if by Indians, the tenure by which they hold the land, or claim to hold it; if held otherwise, by whom, under what grant or title, and your opinions as to the validity of such grant or title.

It is impossible, in the absence of more definite information than the department is in possession of, to prescribe to you anything particular in regard to your duties; and, as the law creating your commission would itself imply, the object is to look to you for all the material to guide it in its

future action in conducting its Indian and other relations in that country. The whole subject is left to you; and the foregoing remarks are merely thrown out as guides and landmarks to aid in conducting you to correct conclusions.

You will find somewhere on the borders of Mexico the government party engaged in the survey of the line between the United States and Mexico. It was contemplated, as you will see by the enclosed copies of letters from this office to the Secretary of the Interior, which contain the basis of your action, that, at the time of asking an appropriation by Congress, you should act in concert with that party, as affording facilities of information and of personal safety that are all-important to you. It is by no means intended that there shall be any official obligation on you to form this connexion, but you will doubtless find it much to your advantage to do so. Of this, however, you will be better able to judge when you reach the country and join the party. You will be provided with such letters to ——— Bartlett, esq., the head of the party, as will insure to you a hearty co-operation on their part to whatever extent you may desire it.

You will find it necessary to procure an outfit of tents, camp utensils, horses for yourselves and party, &c., &c., and to employ such persons as you may require as guards, hunters, &c. These you will provide in your own discretion, to be charged to the appropriation in your hands. Should any public property remain in your hands at the close of your mission, you will dispose of it and credit the proceeds in your accounts.

I enclose copies of such letters and papers as may probably be useful to you—a list of which is annexed.

Another commission has been authorized, consisting of R. McKee, George W. Barbour, and O. M. Wozencraft, to make treaties with the Indians in California. Should you meet at any time, which is scarcely to be expected, you will co-operate and act in concert so far as may be agreed on between you; and it is requested that, whenever this may be the case, there will be no misunderstanding as to your relative powers, or collision in your understanding of your relative duties—it being understood that each board is independent of the other, and all intercourse between them will be harmonious.

It is desirable that you should, from time to time, report your progress to this office, accompanied by such views as you may deem of importance or interest. It is not expected, however, that you will make any formal report until the close of your mission, when you will make a general one of all your proceedings, embracing your journal.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. S. LOUGHERY,
Acting Commissioner.

To C. S. TODD, ROBERT B. CAMPBELL,
and OLIVER P. TEMPLE, *Commissioners.*

E.

To the Honorable Secretary of War, or the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

SIR: I have the honor to report that soon after my arrival here, and as soon as it was known among the numerous tribes of Indians bordering the settlements that the governor had arrived, they flocked in—chiefs, headmen, warriors, and in many instances entire bands—expecting presents; making known that the whites had promised, from time to time, that when the laws of the United States were extended over Oregon, the governor would bring them blankets, shirts, and such other articles as would be useful to them. At this time, I had received neither money nor instructions from the Indian department, and consequently was unprepared to give them anything. Although they felt disappointed at not receiving presents, they evinced a feeling of friendship toward us, and generally expressed a desire to sell their possessory rights to any portion of their country that our government should wish to purchase. Early in April I received ten thousand dollars, (one hundred and sixty dollars less, cost of transportation,) a portion of which I have used for Indian purposes.

Having no assistants, neither agents nor sub-agents, I found it necessary to visit in person many of the tribes in their own country. In the month of April I proceeded to the Dalles of the Columbia; called together the tribes and bands in that vicinity, including the De Chutes river and Yacamaw Indians; held a talk with them; made them some presents to the amount of \$200; and had the gratification, at the request of the chief of the Yacamaws, to bring about a peace between that tribe and the Walla-wallas, who were at that time engaged in war.

These tribes, I was well pleased to find, were friendly and well disposed towards us; and, like the tribes bordering the settlements, anxious to sell their lands.

Early in the month of May I received information of the murder of Wallace at Fort Nesqually, on Puget's sound, by the Snowqualimick and Skey-whamish Indians; and that the few American settlers in that country were much alarmed for the safety of their families, hourly expecting to be attacked by these Indians, who had threatened to destroy the settlements. At that time there were no troops in the country except some eight men under Lieutenant G. W. Hawkins, of the rifles.

I at once concluded to visit the Sound, and assist in putting the settlers in the best possible condition to resist an attack, there being only ten families in that section of the country.

I accordingly proceeded, in company with Lieut. Hawkins and five men, taking with me muskets and ammunition to place in the hands of the settlers. Fortunately, the day after my arrival at the Sound, I received an express from Major Hathaway, notifying me of his arrival at Port Vancouver with two companies of the 1st artillery, and of his readiness to move if his services were required.

I hastened to inform the Indians, through Dr. Solmie, who has charge of the Hudson's Bay Company's fort at Nesqually, of the arrival of our forces, for the purpose of preventing further outrage until the troops could move in that direction.

A copy of my letter to Dr. Solmie is here given:

NEW MARKET, *May* 17, 1849.

SIR: I have just learned by express that two companies of artillery have arrived at Vancouver, by the United States steamer Massachusetts.

It was my intention to visit you at the fort, but owing to this fact I have deemed it necessary to return without delay. I have, therefore, to make the particular request of you not to furnish the Indians with ammunition, and to ask of you the favor to cause the hostile tribes who have committed the outrage to be informed that any repetition of the like conduct will be visited promptly with their complete destruction; that our force, which will be immediately increased, is at this time amply sufficient for an immediate expedition against them; and that the moment I am informed that any injury has been committed by them upon our people, they will be visited by sudden and severe chastisement.

By making this communication to them you will greatly oblige

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH LANE.

WILLIAM F. SOLMIE, Esq., *Nesqually*.

When I wrote to Dr. Solmie, it was my intention, in the event that Maj. Hathaway should establish a post near Nesqually, to visit the Sound, have an understanding with the Major, get his co-operation, and make a demand upon the chiefs of the above-mentioned tribes for the guilty persons, to be tried and punished for the murder of an American citizen according to law. But soon after my return, about the middle of June, I received instructions, bearing date War Department, Office of Indian Affairs, August 31, 1848; also, information of the appointment of J. Quinn Thornton, George C. Preston, and Robert Newell, of Oregon, sub-agents, to be employed and reside in that Territory, and requiring the performance of certain duties therein specified.

It was intended that these instructions should reach me at Saint Louis on my way out, but failed so to do, and were afterwards sent to California by Lieut. Beale, which accounts for their delay in reaching me.

Before these instructions came to hand I had seen most of the tribes and bands bordering the settlements, collected such information as I supposed would be useful, and made such small presents (per accounts and vouchers) as in my judgment were necessary to conciliate their good will.

I promptly handed to Thornton and Newell their appointments. They executed their bonds and took the oath required, as will be seen by their bonds, which have been forwarded. Mr. Preston was then and is now absent from the Territory, and, it is supposed, will not return. I therefore, of necessity, divided the Territory into two sub-agency districts, and assigned J. Quinn Thornton to that part of the Territory of Oregon lying north of the Columbia river, and Newell to the south of the Columbia; and on the 28th day of June the above-named sub-agents were furnished with their instructions touching the points imbodyed in said communication.

As I am anxious in this report to give a true and reliable statement of facts just as they are, that the government may be placed in possession of a true history of our Indian affairs in Oregon, and as both the sub-agents

have submitted lengthy reports, it will not, I hope, be considered improper for me to mention—

First. That Mr. Newell is an old mountaineer, having spent ten years in the mountains, (from 1829 to 1839,) where he followed trapping, by which means he acquired a good knowledge of the tribes and their country. From 1839 to the present time he has resided within the district to which he is assigned to duty, and has become well acquainted with the Indians in the valley of the Willamette—speaks tolerably well the tongues of several of the tribes; and from his knowledge of the Indians and their country, without visiting them or travelling over the country, has made out and submitted his report, from which I make such abstracts as in my opinion are of sufficient importance to entitle them to your consideration:

“The Shoshonee or Snake Indians inhabit a section of country west of the Rocky mountains; from the summit of these mountains north along Wind river mountains to Henry’s fork, down Henry’s fork to the mouth of Lewis or Snake river, down the same to about forty miles below Fort Hall, thence southerly to the great Salt Lake, thence easterly to the summit, by way of the headwaters of Bear river. These Indians are divided into small bands, and are to be found scattered in the mountains, and are called Diggers. They are not hostile, and are poor and miserable. Small bands of this tribe are scattered from the headwaters of Snake river to the Grand Round—a distance of four or five hundred miles. It is almost impossible to ascertain their exact number. The main band numbers about 700. The total number of the entire tribe is about 2,000. They subsist principally upon fish, roots, grass-seed, &c. They have a few horses, are indifferently armed, are well disposed towards the whites, and kill but little game. But little of their land is susceptible of cultivation, with the exception of that portion now occupied by the Mormons.

“The Ponashta Indians occupy a large district of country south of Snake river, from forty miles below Fort Hall to the Grand Round—south in the direction of Salt Lake, and west towards the California mountains. This tribe is divided into small bands, and are so intermarried with the Shoshonees that it is almost impossible to discriminate between them. The Ponashtas predominate, however. They are a warlike people, are poor, have a few arms, and live principally by hunting and fishing. They number about 80 warriors; total, 550.

“The Contenay Indians live partly in the British possessions and partly in Oregon Territory. That portion of the tribe living in this Territory comprises about 400 souls, of whom 100 are capable of bearing arms, which they procure from the Hudson’s Bay Company. They have but little land fit for cultivation, live by hunting, and have many horses. Although they have no mission, they frequent the Calespelins, by which means they derive some instruction from Catholic missionaries there. Total number 400.

“The Salish or Flat Head Indians occupy from Bitter Root river, a fork of the Columbia, all the country drained by that stream down to what is called the Hell Gate, a distance of probably 150 miles. Their country is narrow and broken—but little of it suitable for cultivation. Total number about 320, of whom 100 are warriors. They till the soil in small quantities on Bitter Root river, under the direction of the Jesuit mission; have horses and cattle; are not inclined to rove, and are a brave and noble

race, friendly to the whites. They are well armed, and hunt buffalo annually. 320.

"The Calespelin Indians are in two bands, and occupy a large portion of country, commencing below the *Salish* tribe and extending to near Fort Colville and northeast among the lakes. They number over 1,200. One of these bands have small spots of good land, where they raise peas, potatoes, &c.; they also have some horses, cattle, and fine hogs; are friendly and brave, indifferently armed, and live on fish, game, roots, &c. They hunt buffalo. There is a Catholic mission in their country. They number about 450 warriors. Total number, 1,200.

"The Pouderas or Squiaelps occupy the country east of Colville; are poor, friendly, tolerably well armed, and annually hunt buffalo. They number about 1,200, of whom 450 are warriors. Total, 1,200.

"The Kettle Falls or Colville Indians live between the Calespelin tribe and Fort Colville, above the small lakes; they are divided into two bands; their total number amounting to 800, 100 of whom are warriors. They have a few horses, no cattle, are badly armed, well disposed, and live on fish and roots. There is a Catholic mission in their country. They have some good lands, which are mostly occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company. Total, 800.

"The Cœurs d'Helene or Printed Hearts live between the Spokans and Calespelins. Their country is very fertile, and, under the direction of the Catholic mission, they cultivate the same. They live on fish, roots, and small game. They have some few arms, and are friendly. They number 500, of which 40 are warriors.

"The Spokan tribe occupy the country between Fort Colville and Saapatin. They are divided into many bands, who are all friendly. They number about 1,000. Previous to the Waillatpue massacres they had a mission among them, from which they received much information, but it is now vacated. They have been accustomed to receive small presents from the Hudson's Bay Company. They are well armed, and live on buffalo, fish, and roots. Total number, 1,000.

"The Oukinegans inhabit the country north of Fort Colville; are well armed, and number about 700. They are well disposed towards the whites.

"The Sempoils live on the Columbia, near the Kettle falls; are well disposed, but very poor. They number about 500, have some horses, and a few guns. They subsist on fish, roots, &c., &c.

"The Neepercil Indians inhabit a large portion of country on the Snake, Clearwater, and Salmon rivers. They are an intelligent and good people, and have very numerous herds of horses and cattle. A portion of their country is very good, on which they raise a variety of vegetables, &c. They are kind to our people, and are well armed. There has been a Presbyterian mission among them. The total number of this tribe is estimated at about 1,500; some 400 of whom are warriors, more or less under the influence of the Hudson's Bay Company.

"The Palvas Indians inhabit a section of country north of the Cayuse tribe, and number about 300. They have some horses and cattle; are much scattered; indifferently armed; hunt buffalo, but live principally upon fish, roots, and small game. They are a quiet people, but are not fond of the Americans; to some extent under the influence of the Hudson's Bay Company.

"The Cayuse Indians inhabit the country from the foot of the Blue mountains to within 25 miles of Walla walla. They are a haughty, proud, and overbearing people, as also very superstitious. They have large herds of horses and cattle, and live on fish, roots, berries, and game. They are well armed, and are, through fear, on amicable terms with the whites. Their band consists of about 800, 200 of whom are warriors.

"The Walla-walla Indians possess the country on the Columbia, near Fort Walla-walla; have large herds of horses and cattle, and are well armed, and friendly to the whites. They number 1,000. They cultivate their soil in small quantities, but live principally on fish, roots, and berries. They are considerably under the influence of the Hudson's Bay Company.

"The De Chutes Indians are a part of the Wascopaw tribe, and live upon a river of that name. Their country is poor, high, broken, sandy, and barren, yet it affords good grazing, their stock being in good order the year round. They are very poor, have but few arms, are well disposed, and number about 300. They live on fish and berries.

"The Wascopaw Indians number about 200, and live on the east side of the Cascade mountains. Their soil is not good, and they have no disposition to cultivate what they have. They are poor and thievish, and live on fish, roots, and berries. There is a Catholic mission among them. They are indifferently armed, and friendly to the whites.

"The Wrole Alley Indians range in the Cascade mountains, and claim no land in the valley. Their whole number is about 100—20 warriors. They are a brave and warlike people, and not fond of the Americans. They are well armed, and live principally by the chase.

"The Clackamas Indians live upon a river of that name, which empties into the Willamette one mile below Oregon City. They number about 60, and are considered industrious. They have but few arms, and are friendly. They live on fish and roots.

"The Willamette Indians live upon the east side of the river of that name, near the falls. They are an inoffensive people, have but very few arms, and number in all about 20. The Willamette falls afford them a fine fishery.

"The Clickitats claim a small tract of land at the head of the Willamette valley, on the west side of that river. They own quite a number of horses; are well armed, brave and warlike, but on good terms with the whites. They live principally by the chase; number about 180, of whom 85 are warriors.

"The Calipoa Indians are found on either side of the Willamette river. They are a degraded, worthless, and indolent people. They are poorly armed, and entirely inoffensive; they live on fish, roots, and berries. They number about 60.

"The Sualatine Indians occupy that portion of the country west of the Willamette river from its mouth to the mouth of Yam Hill, a distance of 60 miles; thence west to the coast range of mountains. They number about 60 souls—30 of whom are warriors. They are a degraded, mischievous, and thievish set. They have but few arms.

"The Yam Hill Indians are a small tribe who claim the country drained by a river of that name, which is mostly taken up by the whites. They are poor, have a few horses, and are poorly armed, and are well disposed. They number about 90—of whom 19 are warriors.

"The Suck-a-mier Indians claim all the country drained by a stream of that name west of the Willamette and south of Yam Hill river. They are a part of the Calipoa tribe, and number 15 in all—of whom 5 are warriors. They are friendly to the whites, very poor, and have greatly diminished in the last few years. Their soil is good, and is mostly taken up by the whites. They live on fish, roots, &c.

"The Umpqua Indians occupy a valley of that name, and are much scattered. They live in small bands, are poor, well disposed, well armed, and live by the chase, as also on fish, roots, &c. They number about 200.*

"The Clat-sa-canin Indians inhabit a part of the range along the coast to the Columbia river, north of the Killamucks and to the coast. They number about 300.

"The Clatsop Indians claim a section of country on the south side of the Columbia at its mouth, from 'Cape Lookout,' on the coast, to Astoria; subsist principally on fish. They are intelligent and friendly, and much inclined to dissipation. There are but few of this tribe left—about 50 is the extent of their number. The whites occupy all their prairie lands.

"The Catelamet Indians claim the country on the Columbia river from Astoria about 30 miles up the river. Fifty-eight are all that are left of a once large band. They are a good people; have no land susceptible of cultivation; subsist upon fish, and are quite poor.

"The Calooit tribe claim the country above the Catelamet tribe to Oak Point, on the Columbia river. They possess no land suitable for agricultural purposes. They are poor, number about 200, and subsist on fish, roots, and fowls. They have a few arms.

"The Wakamucks, Namanauim, and Namoit, are bands and parts of bands that claim the country from Oak Point to the mouth of the Willamette, including Wyath's island. They have become so reduced that they have united, and now live together or near each other. Number not known."

Second. Mr. Thornton resides in this city, where he received his instructions on the day above mentioned, and was urged to proceed to the discharge of his duty. On the 30th of July he left this city for Puget's sound, where he remained a short time. He saw some of the Indians, and made them a few presents. From Dr. Solmie, chief trader of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Nesqually, he received such information relative to the Indians and their country as he has embodied in his report. He returned to this city in August, and submitted a statistical report, giving the name and number of each tribe, their habits, disposition, &c. From this report, aided with a knowledge of the Indians and their country, obtained on my visit to the sound, and from such information as I have gathered from the Indians in that section, many of whom have visited me, I have made this portion of my report, which is as correct as it could be made within the time given. Mr. Thornton in his report omits the mention of horses, property, and arms of any of the tribes; but as I have been among several of them, and know them to be well armed, I have made a statement accordingly.

*The Killamuck Indians inhabit the coast range of mountains, a long stretch of country interspersed with small prairies. They are not friendly to the whites. They number about 200.

The Macau or Cape Flattery Indians occupy the country about Cape Flattery and the coast for some distance southward and eastward to the boundary of the Haalum or Nortatum lands; number not ascertained, but supposed to be 1,000; warlike; disposition towards the whites not known; live by fishing and hunting.

The Wooselalim Indians occupy the country about Hood's canal, Dureginess, Port Discovery, and coast to the westward. Total number about 1,400, of whom 200 are warriors; disposition not known; they raise a few vegetables, but subsist principally by hunting and fishing.

The Shoquamish Indians occupy the country about Port Orchard, west side of Whidley's island. Total number about 500; well disposed; live by fishing and labor; they have a few horses.

The Homamish, Hottunamish, Iquahsinawmish, Sayhaynamish and Stichaftsamish Indians occupy the country from the narrows along the western shore of Puget's sound; friendly and well disposed. Total number about 500; subsist by labor and fishing.

The Twanoh and Skokomish Indians live along the shore of Hood's canal; number about 200; friendly and well disposed; subsist by labor and fishing.

The Squallyamish, Puallip, and Sineramish Indians live about Nesqually, Puallip, and Sineramish rivers; number about 550; friendly and well disposed; live by labor and fishing.

The Sinahamish Indians live on a river of that name, and southern extremity of Whidley's island. Total number about 350; friendly and well disposed; live by labor and fishing.

The Snoqualamick Indians live on the Snoqualamick river, a south branch of the Sinahamish. Total number about 350; warlike; inclined to be hostile; live by fishing and hunting; well armed, and have a few horses.

The Skeywhamish Indians live on the Skeywhamish river, a north branch of the Sinahamish. Total number about 450; have some arms; disposition doubtful; live by fishing and hunting.

The Skagats live on the Skagat river, down to the ocean, towards the north end of Whidley's island. Total number about 500; friendly and well disposed; live by farming and fishing.

The Nooklulumu Indians live about Ballingham's bay. Total number about 220; warlike; disposition to the whites not known; live by hunting and fishing.

The Cowlitz Indians live on the Cowlitz river, from its mouth to the settlements. They number about 120; they have a few arms; are well disposed; have a few horses, and live by hunting and fishing.

The Chenooks live at Baker's bay. Total number about 100; but few guns; friendly to the whites; live by hunting and fishing.

The Quevoil and Chebaylis tribes, on the Chebaylis river. Total number about 300; well disposed; live by hunting and fishing.

The Kathlamit, Konick, and Wakanasceces Indians live about Kathlamet, Oak Point, and the fisheries upon Columbia river, opposite the upper mouth of the Willamette. Total number about 150; they are friendly and well disposed; live by hunting, fishing, and on roots.

The Tilhalluvit Indians live about the Dalles on the north side of the Columbia river. Total number about 200; live by hunting and fishing, and are friendly.

The Wyampam Indians live about the falls of the Columbia river, north side. Total number about 130; warlike; well-disposed towards the whites; live by hunting, fishing, and on roots.

The Yacamaws live on Yacamaw river, between the Dalles of the Columbia and the coast. This tribe are related to the Clicketats, who occupy the country north of the Columbia, in the vicinity of Mount St. Helens. Total number of all about 1,500; warlike; well-disposed towards the whites; have many horses; live by hunting and fishing. There is a Catholic mission among them.

The Piscahoose Indians live on a river of the same name. Total number about 350; warlike; well-disposed towards the whites; live by hunting and fishing.

I here take occasion to introduce extracts from Mr. Thornton's report in relation to his course in the affair of the murder of Wallace by the Snoqualamick Indians:

"On the 9th ultimo I arrived at Fort Nesqually. I immediately proceeded to investigate the facts connected with the killing of Mr. Wallace. I sent messengers to Haughtickwymem, head chief of the Snoqualamick tribe. I advised him to arrest the offenders and deliver them over to Captain B. H. Hill, and as an inducement offered to him eighty blankets as a reward, if this were done in three weeks. I authorized Captain Hill, of the 1st artillery, to double the reward, and to offer it in my name as sub-agent, if the murderers were not delivered up in three weeks."

In my instructions to Mr. Thornton I said nothing about the murder of Wallace, nor did I intend that he should interfere in the premises, as it was my intention, on the arrival of the troops at Nesqually, to visit the sound and demand the murderers, and make the Indians know that they *should* give them up for punishment, and that hereafter all outrages should be promptly punished; being well satisfied that there is no mode of treatment so appropriate as prompt and severe punishment for wrong-doing. It is bad policy, under any consideration, to hire them to make reparation, for the reasons, to wit:

First. It holds out inducements to the Indians for the commission of murder by way of speculation; for instance, they would murder some American, and await the offering of a large reward for the apprehension of the murderers. This done, they would deliver some of their slaves as guilty, for whom they would receive ten times the amount that they would otherwise get for them.

Second. It has a tendency to make them underrate our ability and inclination to chastise by force, or make war upon them for such conduct, which, in my opinion, is the only proper method of treating them for such offences.

A short time after Mr. Thornton's return to this city, I received a letter from Major Hathaway informing me that six Indians, charged with being the principal actors in the murder of Wallace, had been brought in by the Indians of the Snoqualamick tribe and delivered to Captain Hill, 1st artillery, commanding the forces at Stirlacoom, near Fort Nesqually. Chief Justice Bryant has gone to Stirlacoom for the purpose of holding a court for their trial. Although I cannot approve the policy of offering so large a reward under any circumstances, yet in this case it had been done, and I wrote by Judge Bryant to Dr. Solmie as follows:

OREGON CITY, September 24, 1849.

DEAR SIR: Chief Justice Bryant goes to the sound to try the six Indians charged with the murder of Wallace. If the Indians are found to be the guilty ones, the reward offered by the sub-agent, Mr. Thornton, must be paid. In that event you will please hand the Indians who arrested and brought them in, the blankets promised them by the sub-agent, and forward the account for payment.

With great respect, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH LANE.

Dr. SOLMIE.

A few days after the Judge left for Stirlacoom, Solmie forwarded his account for payment, stating that on the delivery of the six Indians the reward of eighty blankets had been paid to the Indians who arrested and brought them in; which account I have declined paying until I can know whether they are the guilty ones.

It will be seen that there are within the Territory of Oregon, so far as reported, sixty-five tribes and bands of Indians; some of them are mere bands, and will soon become extinct. Two tribes not mentioned in the report will be noticed hereafter. Thirty tribes or bands live north of the Columbia, and the remainder south of the Columbia.

There have been no conventional arrangements entered into between the whites and Indians which require the action of Congress.

The Indians are scattered over the entire Territory, and for the purpose of maintaining friendly relations with, and proper control of them, I would respectfully recommend the following division of the Territory for agency purposes, to wit:

An agent to be located at or near the Grand Round, for the tribes and bands living south of the Columbia and east of the Cascade range to Fort Boise; and a sub-agent to be located at or near Fort Hall for the tribes between Fort Boise and the summit of the Rocky mountains.

The Rogue river Indians, not above mentioned, occupy the country on both sides of Rogue river, from where the road to California crosses, to the mouth of the same, and on the coast. They number some 700 or 800; they are a warlike and roguish people, and have lately given much trouble to small parties of our people returning from the gold mines; have succeeded in killing some, wounding some, and robbing others, by which means they have got several thousand dollars of gold, many horses, and some guns. Owing to their recent success, it is to be feared that we will have some trouble with these Indians.

A sub-agency should be established as near this point as practicable—say on the Umpqua—for all the tribes south of the Columbia, and west of the Cascade range, and a garrison of one or two companies established in their country for the protection of our people travelling in that direction.

In a recent trip which I made across the coast range of mountains, I found on the Yacona bay, which is about 160 miles south of the mouth of the Columbia, the Yacona Indians, from which tribe the bay takes its name. They live along the coast, on both sides of the bay; are poor, well disposed; live principally by fishing. Number about two hundred.

There is no point in the Territory where an agent is more required than at or near Puget's sound. An agency should be established there, and the agent should be promptly at his post. The Indians are numer-

cus, and some of them inclined to be troublesome, but, with the services of a good agent, they could be managed and made friendly. I am inclined to think that at this time it is *not indispensably* necessary to establish any other agency north of the Columbia; the one at the sound would have charge of all the tribes on that side of the Columbia.

One interpreter to each agency will be required, whose services cannot be procured for the sum fixed by law.

The following amount will be necessary for the erection of agency buildings, and fixtures, to each agency -	\$2,500 00
For fuel, stationery, and travelling expenses, to each agency	800 00
For presents to the Indians, necessary to conciliate their good will:—for the Indians of the Columbia, \$1,000; to those south of said river, \$1,500	2,500 00
For provisions for Indians, and visiting agencies, to each agency -	100 00

It will be necessary to alter the law, so as to raise the salary of the agents and interpreters.

You will perceive that the figures above made are above the prices heretofore fixed by the law of Congress; but from the high price of labor, provisions, &c., I feel confident that the sums set down are not too large.

I would call the attention of the department to the fact that Mr. Thornton has resigned his office of sub-agent for the 2d district, and Mr. Newell is absent from the Territory—having gone to California: consequently, I am without an assistant.

The Cayuse nation remain unpunished for the murder of the unfortunate Dr. Whitman and his family; the eyes of the surrounding nations are upon us, watching our movements in relation to this cold-blooded massacre, and if the guilty be not punished they will construe it as a license for the most atrocious outrages, and scenes of a similar character will be enacted by other tribes, who, by our example towards the guilty Cayuse, will be incited to gratify any malicious spirit with the blood of Americans; and our suffering the guilty in this instance to escape a just punishment, will be to them an assurance of their own safety. Indeed, the chiefs of some of the neighboring tribes have informed me that they have already had difficulty in restraining their tribe from joining the Cayuses, and they are anxious the murderers should be brought to punishment, as it would deter their own bands from crime.

In concluding this report, I take the liberty to call your special attention to the following extract from my message to the Legislative Assembly:

“Surrounded as many of the tribes and bands now are by the whites, whose arts of civilization, by destroying the resources of the Indians, doom them to poverty, want, and crime, the extinguishment of their title by purchase, and the locating them in a district removed from the settlements, is a measure of the most vital importance to them. Indeed, the cause of humanity calls loudly for their removal from causes and influences so fatal to their existence. This measure is one of equal interest to our own people.”

JOSEPH LANE.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Territory of Oregon, Oregon City, October 13, 1849.

Since writing the above, Chief Justice Bryant has returned from the trial of the Indians charged with the murder of Wallace; and, at my request, the following report has been by him submitted:

OREGON CITY, *October 10, 1849.*

SIR: In compliance with your request to know the result of the trial of the six Snoqualamick Indians, for the murder of Wallace, in April last, I have the honor to inform you, that in pursuance of the provisions of an act of the Legislative Assembly for the Territory of Oregon, attaching the county of Lewis to the first judicial district in said Territory, and appointing the first Monday in October, at Stirlacoom, as the time and place of holding the district court of the United States for said county, I opened and held said court at the time and place appointed. Captain B. F. Hill, of the 1st artillery U. S. A., delivered to the marshal of the Territory six Indians of the Snoqualamick tribe, given up by said tribe as the murderers of Wallace, namely: Kassass, Quallawort, Stulharrier, Tattau, Whyesk and Quatthlinkyne, all of whom were indicted for murder, and the two first named, Kassass and Quallawort, were convicted and executed; the other four were found not guilty, by the jury. Those who were found guilty, were clearly so; as to three of the others that were acquitted, I was satisfied with the finding of the jury. It was quite evident they were guilty in a less degree, if guilty at all, than those convicted. As to the fourth, I had no idea that he was guilty at all; there was no evidence against him, and all the witnesses swore that they did not see him during the affray or attack on Fort Nesqually.

It is not improbable that he was a slave, whom the guilty chiefs that were convicted expected to place in their stead, as a satisfaction for the American murdered. Two other Americans were wounded badly by shots, and an Indian child, that afterwards died. The effect produced by this trial was salutary, and I have no doubt will long be remembered by the tribe. The whole tribe, I would judge, were present at the execution, and a vast gathering of the Indians from other tribes on the sound; and they were made to understand that our laws would punish them promptly for every murder they committed, and that we would have no satisfaction short of all who acted in the murder of our citizens.

I learned that this tribe is the most fierce and warlike of any on the sound, and often go through other tribes in armed bands, and commit murders, take slaves, and plunder. I could not find that any blame was attached to the officers at Fort Nesqually, or to the American citizens who were present.

To the end that the trial might be conducted fairly, I appointed Judge A. P. Skinner, whom you had engaged to go out to attend to their prosecution, district attorney for the time, and ordered that he be allowed for his services \$250; and I also appointed to defend them David Stone, esq., an attorney also sent out by you to defend them, and I made an allowance of record to him for \$250. This compensation I deemed reasonable; they have had to travel two hundred miles from their respective homes, camp in the woods, as well as all the rest of us, and endure a great deal of fatigue in the manner of travelling, in bateaux and canoes by water. Many of the grand and petit jurors were summoned at a distance of two hundred miles from their homes; and although the transportation may have cost some more to the department than bringing the Indians

into the more settled districts, and with them the witnesses, with a sufficient escort for protection, (which I very much doubt,) yet I have no hesitation in believing that the policy pursued here more than repaid any additional expense that may have been incurred. I directed the marshal to keep a careful account of expenses, and report the same to you, which he has doubtless done. There are not nearer than this place, in the judicial district, the requisite number of lawful jurors, to the place appointed to hold the court, (which is the only American fort at the sound,) so sparsely is the country around the sound settled.

I will be glad to furnish you any further particulars, if it be found necessary.

And have the honor to be, very truly, your obedient servant,

WM. P. BRYANT.

His Excellency JOSEPH LANE.

I am clearly of opinion that the trial and punishment of the Indians, in the presence of their tribe and the other tribes and bands bordering the sound, was the true policy; and has, no doubt, made an impression upon their minds sufficient to deter them from similar offences. With this view of the case, on the receipt of Major Hathaway's letter informing me of the arrest of these Indians, I immediately submitted a communication to the Legislative Assembly, from which I take the following extract:

"I have just received a communication from Major Hathaway, 1st artillery, commanding 11th military department, advising me that Captain Hill, commanding at Stirlacoom, has now in confinement six Indians of the Snoqualamick tribe, principal actors in the murder of Wallace. I am well satisfied that the trial and punishment of these guilty persons in the presence of their people will have a good effect upon the tribes in that quarter.

"I therefore request that you will, without delay, pass an act attaching Lewis county to the first judicial district, for judicial purposes, and authorize the holding a term of said district court therein, on the 1st Monday in October next."

For the purpose of affording a fair, impartial, and properly conducted trial, I employed Mr. Skinner to go with the court to prosecute the criminals, and Mr. Stone to defend them. The court ordered an allowance of \$250 to each of them, which I have paid out of the Indian fund in my hands. I have also paid to the Indians who worked the boats for the conveyance of the court and jury, \$180. This expense was necessary, for the reason that there is no other mode of travel, there being no roads in the direction of Puget's sound, and consequently they had to go down the Columbia to the mouth of Cowlitz, and up that rapid stream to the settlements, and then across the country to the sound.

The total expense of holding the court at Stirlacoom for the trial of these Indians amounts to \$1,899 54; reward of eighty blankets, \$480; making the sum total of \$2,379 54. Deduct from this sum the \$680, and the reward of \$480, will leave a balance of \$1,219 54, to be paid by the marshal as soon as he can get funds. I have just paid the amount above specified out of the Indian fund—there being no other government funds in the Territory. The law of Congress appropriates a certain amount to defray the expenses of the Legislative Assembly, &c.; but the secretary of the Territory has not received a single cent. The Legislative

Assembly has been convened, held their session, and adjourned, without funds to pay their per diem allowance, or to print the laws.

I have observed the strictest economy in the management of our Indian affairs. I have made but few presents; and in travelling through their country on several visits which I found it necessary to make, I have incurred but little expense. No funds have been forwarded to the marshal, which subjects the court to great inconvenience, and operates oppressively upon the people who have had to travel, as in the case above mentioned, a distance of two hundred miles to serve as jurymen; and this seriously obstructs the affording of that justice which the people are entitled to. I hope you will readily allow the accounts above mentioned, to wit: To Messrs. Skinner and Stone \$500, \$180 for transportation, and \$480 for the blankets. Mr. Thornton, the sub-agent, tendered his resignation previous to the trial, and there was no person in the service of government to prosecute or defend the Indians.

Everything has been done that could be to prevent the introduction of spirituous liquors among the Indians; notwithstanding, I have recently heard of many violations of the law by vessels coming into the Columbia, and particularly at Baker's bay and Astoria. One of these offenders has recently been fined by Judge Pratt \$500 for selling liquor to Indians. It will, however, be difficult to stop the traffic, without the services of a good sub-agent, to reside in that immediate vicinity. I would therefore respectfully advise the appointment of some suitable person residing at or near Astoria to that office.

With great respect, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH LANE,
*Ex-officio Superintendent of Indian Affairs,
Territory of Oregon.*

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Territory of Oregon, Oregon City, October 22, 1849.

P. S.—I have received no instructions from Washington, nor communication of any kind, of later date than October, 1848.

J. L.

F.

STATEMENT

EXHIBITING

THE AMOUNT OF INVESTMENTS

For Indian account, &c.

F.

Statement exhibiting the amount of invest-

Names of the tribes for whose account stock is held in trust.	Names of the States which issued the bonds.	Rate per cent.	Amount of each lot of bonds.	Aggregate am't of the bonds for each tribe.	Amount of the annual interest on each.
Cherokees.....	Kentucky.....	5	\$94,000 00	.....	\$4,700 00
	Tennessee.....	5	250,000 00	.....	12,500 00
	Alabama.....	5	300,000 00	.....	15,000 00
	Maryland.....	6	761 39	.....	45 63
	Michigan.....	6	64,000 00	.....	3,840 00
	Maryland.....	5	41,138 00	.....	2,056 90
	Missouri.....	5½	10,000 00	.....	550 00
				\$759,899 39	
Chippewas, Ottowas, and Pottawatomies (mills). {	Maryland.....	6	130,850 43	.....	7,851 02
	U. S. loan, 1847..	6	21,791 83	.....	1,307 51
	U. S. loan, 1842..	6	39,921 93	.....	2,395 31
	U. S. loan, 1843..	5	157 60	.....	7 88
				192,721 79	
Chippewas, Ottowas, and Pottawat's (education) {	Indiana.....	5	68,000 00	.....	3,400 00
	U. S. loan, 1847..	6	6,525 54	.....	391 53
	U. S. loan, 1842..	6	5,556 71	.....	333 40
				80,082 25	
Incompetent Chickasaws..	Indiana.....	5	.....	2,000 00	.....
Chickasaw orphans.....	Arkansas.....	5	3,000 00	.....	150 00
	U. S. loan.....	6	770 03	.....	46 20
	U. S. loan, 1842..	6	433 68	.....	26 02
				4,203 71	
Shawnees.....	Maryland.....	6	29,341 50	.....	1,760 49
	Kentucky.....	5	1,000 00	.....	50 00
	U. S. loan, 1842..	6	1,734 71	.....	104 48
				32,076 21	
Senecas.....	Kentucky.....	5	.....	5,000 00	.....
Senecas and Shawnees...	Kentucky.....	5	6,000 00	.....	300 00
	Missouri.....	5½	7,000 00	.....	385 00
	U. S. loan, 1843..	5	3,641 04	.....	182 05
				16,641 04	
Kansas schools.....	Missouri.....	5½	18,000 00	.....	990 00
	U. S. loan, 1847..	6	1,540 06	.....	92 40
	U. S. loan, 1843..	5	2,700 00	.....	135 00
	U. S. loan, 1842..	6	4,444 66	.....	266 67
				26,684 72	
Menomonies.....	Kentucky.....	5	77,000 00	.....	3,850 00
	U. S. loan, 1843..	5	3,117 38	.....	155 87
	U. S. loan, 1842..	6	26,114 88	.....	1,566 89
	U. S. loan, 1847..	6	21,321 10	.....	1,279 26
				127,553 36	
Chippewas and Ottowas...	Kentucky.....	.....	77,000 00	.....	3,850 00
	Michigan.....	.....	3,000 00	.....	180 00
	U. S. loan, 1843..	.....	6,368 27	.....	318 41
	U. S. loan, 1842..	.....	16,588 97	.....	995 34
	U. S. loan, 1847..	.....	14,374 47	.....	862 46
				117,331 71	
Creek orphans.....	Alabama.....	5	82,000 00	.....	4,100 00
	Missouri.....	5½	28,000 00	.....	1,540 00
	U. S. loan, 1843..	5	13,700 00	.....	685 00
	U. S. loan, 1842..	6	49,900 84	.....	2,994 05
				173,600 84	
Choctaws under convention with Chickasaws.....	Alabama.....	5	.....	500,000 00	.....
Delawares (education)...	U. S. loan, 1842..	6	.....	7,806 28	.....

F.

ments for Indian account in State stocks, &c.

Aggregate am't of the annual inter- est for each tribe.	Am't of the cost of each lot of bonds.	Aggregate cost of the bonds for each tribe.	When the interest is payable.	Where the in- terest is pay- able.	Where the in- terest is de- posited until wanted.	Treaties, on reference to which it may be seen for what ob- jects the interest is applied.
.....	\$94,000 00	.....	Semi-ann..	N. Y..	Treas. U. S.	Treaty, Dec., 1835.
.....	250,000 00	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
.....	300,000 00	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
.....	880 00	.....	Quarterly.	Balt..	..do....	.....do.
.....	69,120 00	.....	Semi-ann..	N. Y..	..do....	.....do.
.....	42,490 00	.....	Quarterly	Balt..	..do....	Treaty, Feb. 27, '19.
.....	10,000 00	.....	Semi-ann..	N. Y..	..do....	.....do.
\$38,692 58		\$766,490 00				
.....	150,000 00	.....	Quarterly.	Balt..	..do....	Treaty, Sept., 1833.
.....	25,707 10	.....	Semi-ann..	Wash.	..do....	.....do.
.....	44,204 40	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
.....	156 00	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
11,561 72		220,067 50				
.....	72,264 09	.....	..do....	N. Y..	..do....	.....do.
.....	7,697 97	.....	..do....	Wash.	..do....	.....do.
.....	6,016 05	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
4,124 93		85,973 11				
100 00		2,000 00	..do....	N. Y..	..do....	Treaty, May, 1834
.....	3,000 00	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
.....	908 38	.....	..do....	Wash.	..do....	.....do.
.....	508 01	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
222 22		4,416 39				
.....	33,912 40	.....	Quarterly.	Balt..	..do....	Treaty, Aug., 1831.
.....	980 00	.....	Semi-ann..	N. Y..	..do....	.....do.
.....	2,032 03	.....	..do....	Wash.	..do....	.....do.
1,914 57		36,924 43				
250 00		4,900 00	..do....	N. Y..	..do....	Treaty, Feb., 1831.
.....	5,880 00	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
.....	7,121 87	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
.....	3,713 87	.....			
867 05		16,715 74				
.....	18,000 00	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	Treaty, June, 1825.
.....	1,816 75	.....	..do....	Wash.	..do....	.....do.
.....	2,727 27	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
.....	5,026 30	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
1,484 07		27,570 32				
.....	75,460 00	.....	..do....	N. Y..	..do....	Treaty, Sept., 1836.
.....	3,179 72	.....	..do....	Wash.	..do....	.....do.
.....	29,604 48	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
.....	22,681 16	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
6,852 02		130,925 36				
.....	75,460 00	.....	..do....	N. Y..	..do....	Treaty, Mar., 1836.
.....	3,000 00	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
.....	6,426 46	.....	..do....	Wash.	..do....	.....do.
.....	18,183 30	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
.....	16,700 62	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
6,206 21		119,770 38				
.....	82,000 00	.....	..do....	N. Y..	..do....	Treaty, June, 1832.
.....	28,487 48	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
.....	13,840 00	.....	..do....	Wash.	..do....	.....do.
.....	56,078 03	.....	..do....	..do....	..do....	.....do.
9,319 05		180,405 51				
25,000 00		500,000 00	..do....	N. O..	..do....	Treaty, Jan. 17, '37.
468 38		9,144 27	..do....	Wash.	..do....	Treaty, 1833.

STATEMENT—

Names of the tribes for whose account stock is held in trust.	Names of the States which issued the bonds.	Rate per cent.	Amount of each lot of bonds.	Aggregate am't of the bonds for each tribe.	Amount of the annual interest on each.
Osages (education),	U. S. loan, 1843..	5	\$7,400 00	.....	\$370 00
	U. S. loan, 1842..	6	24,679 56	.....	1,480 00
				\$32,079 56	
Stockbridge and Munsees.	U. S. loan, 1842..	6	.....	5,204 16	.....
Choctaws (education).....	U. S. loan, 1842..	6	60,893 62	.....	3,653 61
	U. S. loan, 1843..	5	1,545 44	.....	77 27
	U. S. loan, 1847..	6	18,026 97	.....	1,081 61
				80,466 03	
Chippewas of Swan creek.	U. S. loan, 1843..	5	.....	5,869 43	.....
Ott'was of Blanchard's forks	U. S. loan, 1843..	5	.....	7,850 41	.....
Ottowas of Roche de Bœug.	U. S. loan, 1843..	5	.....	1,650 43	.....
				2,178,721 32	

Continued.

Aggregate am't of the annual inter- est for each tribe.	Am't of the cost of each lot of bonds.	Aggregate cost of the bonds for each tribe.	When the interest is payable.	Where the in- terest is pay- able.	Where the in- terest is de- posited until wanted.	Treaties, on reference to which it may be seen for what ob- jects the interest is applied.
.....	\$7,474 74	.....	Semi-ann..	Wash.	Treas. U. S.	Treaty, 1835.
.....	27,656 76	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.
\$1,850 77		\$35,131 50	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Treaty, May, 1840.
312 25		6,096 16	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Treaty, Sept., 1830.
.....	68,236 73	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.
.....	1,530 00	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.
.....	19,979 75	.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.
4,812 49		89,746 48	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Treaty, May, 1834.
293 47		5,986 82	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Treaty, Aug., 1831.
392 52		8,007 42	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.
82 52		1,683 44	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.
114,806 82		2,251,959 83				

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, November 27, 1850.

Statement exhibiting the annual interest appropriated by Congress to pay the following tribes of Indians, in lieu of investing the sum of money provided by treaties and laws in stocks.

Names of tribes.	Amount provided by treaty for investments.	Rate per cent.	Amount of interest annually appropriated.	Authority by which made.
Delawares.....	\$46,080	5	\$2,304	Treaty, September 29, 1829.
Chippewas and Ottowas.....	200,000	6	12,000	Resolution of the Senate, May 27, 1836.
Sioux of Mississippi.....	300,000	5	15,000	Treaty, September 29, 1837.
Sacs and Foxes of Missouri.....	175,400	5	8,770	Treaty, October 21, 1837.
Winnebagoes.....	1,185,000	5	59,250	Treaties, November 1, 1837, and October 13, 1846.
Sacs and Foxes of Mississippi.....	1,000,000	5	50,000	Treaties, October 21, 1837, and October 11, 1842.
Iowas.....	157,500	5	7,875	Resolution of the Senate, January 19, 1835.
Osages.....	69,120	5	3,456	Do do do.
Creeks.....	350,000	5	17,500	Treaty, November 23, 1838.
Senecas of New York.....	75,000	5	3,750	Treaty, May 20, 1842, and law of Congress, June 27, 1846.
Kansas.....	200,000	5	10,000	Treaty, January 14, 1846.
Pottawatomies.....	643,000	5	32,150	Treaty, June 5, 1846.
Choctaws.....	872,000	5	43,600	Treaty, September 27, 1830, and laws of 1842 and 1845.
	5,273,100		265,655	

H.

A striking disparity exists between the financial estimates of this office submitted to Congress at the commencement of the last session and those prepared for submission at the commencement of the next. The latter exceed the former by a very large amount; and, to prevent misconception, a brief explanation may be necessary.

Estimates are divided into two classes, technically called *regular* and *special*. The first class relates exclusively to objects of fixed and permanent character, and to appropriations therefor, to be expended within the ensuing fiscal year; the latter, to temporary and miscellaneous objects, and to appropriations therefor, to be expended within the current as well as the fiscal year. Heretofore, the practice has been to submit the regular estimates alone at the opening of Congress, and the special estimates from time to time during the progress of the session. But in preparing the estimates for the present year, care has been taken, pursuant to your instructions, to make them so full and comprehensive as to embrace both classes in one general estimate; thereby, as far as practicable, placing before Congress at a single view, and at the commencement of the session, every object, of whatever character, for which an appropriation may be required. Hence the estimates of the present year, thus aggregated and combined, exceed the regular estimates of the last \$1,423,033 49, and yet they fall short of the actual appropriations at the recent session, on Indian account, some \$18,000, while the regular estimates of last year exceed the corresponding class in the present general estimate \$4,390; the difference being occasioned by the omission of sundry items and the reduction of others.

Great care has also been taken to make the explanatory remarks accompanying the estimates conformable to law. They succinctly but clearly exhibit the grounds on which the several items are respectively founded; and although the aggregate is large, it cannot, in my judgment, be materially diminished without detriment to the public interest.